

contractors are still continuing their work under plea of stay order obtained from the Orissa High Court and the management of both private and Government owned mines are giving extension on expiry of their original contract with utter disregard to the provision of the Labour Ministry's notification. Besides, some mine-owners have been engaging fresh contractors. The Government have also not taken any steps to get the vacation order from the Orissa High Court for abolition of contract system.

I appeal to the Government and particularly the Minister to take immediate action to abolish the contract system in chromite mines in Orissa and give relief to thousands of tribal labour from exploitation by contractors.

(viii) Need to reopen Ashok Paper Mills,
Darbhanga, Bihar

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : There is no denying the fact that there is inordinate delay in the reopening of Ashok Paper Mills, Darbhanga (Bihar). This ambitious industrial project of Mithila, North Bihar, remained closed for the last several years as a result of which several thousand skilled and unskilled workers of this economically backward region are virtually starving. They cannot get any alternative employment either in North or South Bihar.

Sometime back by the end of 1985, Industrial Development Bank of India in collaboration with the Governments of Bihar and Assam, was devising ways and means to reopen this industrial unit. This had kindled a hope in the hearts of the people of Mithila region. But nothing more has been heard on this account lately.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to take urgent steps to reopen Ashok Paper Mills, Darbhanga.

12.24 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1986-87—Contd.

[English]

Ministry of Water Resources—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will go

to the next item, Item No. 9. Further Discussion and Voting on the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Water Resources. Shri Bhisma Deo Dube to continue. Please be brief.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduara) : Already, you say, 'be brief' !

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already, he has taken six minutes. That is why I said, 'Please be brief'.

[Translation]

SHRI BHISHMA DEO DUBE (Banda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. Yesterday, I had expressed my opinion on the project set up by U.N.D.P. in our Bundelkhand area. In this connection, I would also like to mention that this project has been pending with the Union Government for sanction for a long time, *vide* letter No. 6.1/150/38-4-81 dated 1.12.1981 sent to the Centre. No attention is being paid to it. My request is that due attention should be paid to it so that the irrigation facilities may be made available there. Under this scheme, Foreign experts will conduct the survey and underground water will be tapped for irrigation purposes. My request is that attention should be paid to this area.

A project called Ken multipurpose project was submitted to the Water Commission in 1982. It is under dispute. It is still pending and no attention has been paid to it. My request is that the hon. Minister should look into this matter so that the dispute could be settled and adequate water and means of irrigation could be made available to the people.

Sir, I want to reiterate that my constituency. Banda is situated in the southern part of Uttar Pradesh, in fact, it can be said that it lies in between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and all rivers except the Yamuna flow into this area from Madhya Pradesh, and the dams constructed over these rivers also lie in Madhya Pradesh. On account of the dispute, the situation is such that the Banda constituency is non receiving any supply of water. Several disputes of similar nature are

[Shri Bhisma Deo Dube]

pending with the Central Government for clearance. My request is that these disputes should be settled without delay, so that those areas could get their due share of water.

Sir, after a review of this situation I would request that the entire Bundelkhand region comprising 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 14 districts of Madhya Pradesh may be treated as a unit, while framing the water policy. This area has a district geographical position and, therefore, it can be regarded as one unit. Thereby the water resources for the area and other facilities could be increased, which would lead to greater welfare of the region. Hence, I would request you to constitute a separate Commission to devise methods for increasing the water resources. Sir, the National Water Policy is being formulated and while it is under preparation, I would request you to consider my suggestion of treating Bundelkhand as a single unit before finalising the plan. Although the State is largely responsible for irrigation works yet the Department of Water Resources of the Central Government also has a role to play by way of guidance. Accordingly, I would like that the Central Government should guide the State Government and make it understand that out of the four rivers flowing through the Banda district, namely, Pasuni, Bage, Ken and Yamuna, dams should be constructed on Pasuni and Bage rivers and their canals could be utilized for irrigation so that the dry areas of Karvi and Naraini may get irrigated. The soil is very fertile in this region and if irrigation facilities are provided, the yield may be quite high. Again, Lift Irrigation Scheme should be adopted for Ken and Yamuna rivers. The State Government has made a rule that Lift Irrigation Projects would not be constructed over rivers with less than 25 cusecs of water. As there are ravines on either side of these rivers, no other irrigation method can be adopted there. Neither tubewells can be installed nor canals constructed for supplying water. Hence, Lift Irrigation Scheme should be adopted even if 5 to 15 cusecs of water is available and the land should be irrigated.

Similarly, the proposal to instal 150 tubewells in Banda district, which was sent for clearance to the Remote Section, should be implemented without delay. The work on the Rajghat Dam Project should be speeded up and rapid progress should be made in this matter. In the end, I shall speak about the drinking water crisis in my area. Our Government have resolved to make drinking water available in every village. A large part of my constituency is dry and no drinking water is available there. The Patha area is rocky and a wasteland. Neither tubewells can be installed nor wells can be dug there. The Government had drawn up Patha Drinking Water Scheme, Banda, on which about Rs. 3 crores had been spent. But the scheme has totally failed. It could not provide water to the people. At some places tanks have been constructed but they have not been connected with taps. Attention should be paid towards it. I shall conclude by raising one more point. The water scarcity there is so acute that a song has been composed on it in the villages. When the women go to fetch water, they sing that song. If you hear it you will understand how much difficulty they have to face in arranging water.

*Paise soop take gagari, aag lege skum
dadri*

Skum dadri is the name of a village there. They say that one has to pay one paisa for a soopa and two paise for a gagari. What is the use of such a village. There is another song.

*Bhaura tera pani gazeb kar jaae, gagari
na phoote, Chahe khasam mar jaye,*

The womenfolk say that they can bear the loss of their husbands but not that of the water fetched by them. With these words, I convey my gratefulness to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

12.32 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

*SHRI B.N. REDDY (Mirjalguda) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, water is one of the

*The Speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

most valuable resource among the natural resources. There will be no room for drought in any part of the country if our water resources are harnessed properly. We should keep this fact in mind. Harnessing of our water resources means getting rid of drought once and for all.

In "Towards a National Water Policy : Issues for consideration" it was stated that "the country with a geographical area of 329 m.ha. has a water potential of about 178 m.ha. m. from surface water and 42 m.ha.m. from ground water, but only about 50% of this can be put to beneficial use." It means that we can utilise only 50% of our water resources. We are not in a position to utilise fully even this 50% of water resources. We are utilising only 24% and even less than that today. So efforts should be made to utilise all the available water resources to the fullest extent possible. If it is done, we can have assured water supply for irrigation in the country. If these waters are tapped and diverted to the areas where there is no water, not only drought disappears from the land but also the entire country prospers. We have to keep certain priorities in mind. There are many areas in the country which are chronically drought prone. These areas must get top priority. Water should be supplied to these areas first. Another important point which we should bear in mind is give priority to agriculture. Providing drinking water is another important point which we should bear in mind while drafting our National water policy. There is a saying in Telugu. Provide water to the parching land and throat. But it is unfortunate that this Govt. has failed on both these fronts. Providing water for cultivation and drinking water to quench the thirst is most important. If the Govt. cannot provide water for the fields and drinking water to the people, the country is bound to reel under famine. The failure of the Government on these fronts shows clearly that there is no clear cut National water policy in our country. The hon. Minister's statement on our National Water Policy does not speak about providing water to drought prone areas. Also it is not clear about the policy to be adopted for providing water for agricultural lands. The Govt. must adopt a clear cut policy on these issues.

Sir, many parts of the country are reeling under unprecedented drought. Drought is acute in Gujarat. We have been hearing in the news for last 2 days that certain parts of Maharashtra are also suffering from drought. In West Bengal also there is drought. I need not mention Rajasthan, for, it is the worst drought affected area in the country today. Similarly in Andhra Pradesh also there is unprecedented drought. So it is clear that in many parts of the country there is a drought for the past several years. We are blessed with plenty of water resources, yet we are not in a position to control and prevent the recurring drought. It might be true that we are too small to prevent the fury of nature, yet we can do something in this regard through human effort. To tap the underground and surface waters is not beyond the ability of man. We can harness the surface and ground water. Had the Govt. tried to tap these resources, we could, we have prevented the recurring droughts. The country would have been spared of the famine. The failure of the Govt. in this regard is resulting in recurring droughts.

It is unfortunate that even after 40 years of our independence we could not do anything substantial in tapping our water resources. Had the Govt. made efforts to harness our water resources, we could have saved our country from droughts and famines, the drought will continue to occur in the country as long as the policy of the Government does not change. Sir, there are many projects which are under construction for the past several years. No effort has been made to complete them in time. If the projects are completed in time, we will be in a position to supply water for agriculture. The shortage of drinking water will also disappear. We could have prevented famine which is plaguing many parts of the country today. The elimination of poverty cannot take place until the present policy of the Govt. changes. Drought and poverty go hand in hand. So unless we complete our major projects which are now under construction, it is not possible either to control drought or eliminate poverty. Early completion of these projects will go a long way in eliminating the perennial problem of drought. The Govt. should keep this point in mind. Sir, I am sorry, I am forced to say repeatedly that many of the major projects which are taken up decades back are not

[Shri B.N. Reddy]

yet complete. The Government failed in implementing the assured water supply policy. The failure to provide assured water supply is only due to the delay in completion of our major projects. I want to cite couple of examples, if we need any, in this regard. Projects in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh are the best example. Before I deal with the position in A.P. first I want to bring to the notice of the August House the plight of W. Bengal in regard to various projects there. There are many irrigation projects which are pending before the Central Govt. Some of them are Upper Kangsabati, Ajoy Reservoir, Suvarnarekha Barrage, Modernisation of Kangsabati, Baman gola Irrigation schemes and Kangsabati Reservoir. I prefer to quote what Shri Joyoti Basu, the West Bengal Chief Minister said in his budget speech of 1986-87. "The Teesta project is one of the most important projects of the State currently under execution. I would like to take hon. Members into confidence about the difficulties we have been facing in our efforts at early completion of the project. Upto the end of 1984-85, a total sum of Rs. 160 crores has been spent on the project, out of which only a sum of Rs. 5 crores has come from the Govt. of India as special assistance. We have been pleading with the Govt. of India for increasing the special assistance to at least Rs. 20 crores in one year over the 7th Plan period, particularly because of the national importance of the projects. There has not yet been any response from the Govt. of India. The State Govt. has been spending 60% to 70% of its total plan allocation for medium and major irrigation of this project. There is hardly anything more that we can do. Nevertheless, in order to ensure that the benefit of irrigation from the project begins to reach farmers during the year 1986-87, we have stepped up the allocation for the Teesta Project from Rs. 21 crores to Rs. 28 crores during the current year." The reason why I am quoting Shri Jyoti Basu, is to say that the State Governments can not execute major projects on their own. It is beyond their capability. More than 60 to 70% of their plan money is being spent on the major project. Yet, in spite of this huge investment they are not in a position to complete the major projects. It is the responsibility of the Central Government to share the burden of completing major

projects. Without substantial Central assistance the State Governments cannot complete the major projects. The Centre should step in and share the burden of States.

Now, turning to the position of Andhra Pradesh, I must say that AP also being neglected by the Centre. Very recently our Chief Minister, Shri N.T. Rama Rao has stated that the Centre has not been cooperating with the State and not helping it any way. What is more the Central Government is creating hurdles in finding solutions to some of the disputes which are confronting the State. About 25 irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh are pending before the Central Government for the past 25 years. They have not been cleared so far. I want to mention few of them. Nagarjunsagar has been under construction for the past 20 years and it is yet to be completed. Sri Ram Sagar Stage II has also not been completed so far though it was taken up 25 years ago. Vamsadahara Project Stage II has not yet been cleared by the Centre. The Central Govt. has done nothing to see that this project is completed early. Similarly, the Central Govt. has not yet cleared the Stage II of Somashila project. Sir, Hyderabad city is facing acute shortage of drinking water. By taking up Singur Project, the drinking water problem of the twin cities can be solved. Hyderabad is the capital city of Andhra Pradesh. These people are suffering due to the scarcity of drinking water. Singur project can provide water to the parched throats of Hyderabad citizen. The situation is grave. But it is a pity that the Central Government has not cleared Singur project so far. In fact, the Central Govt. should take up the responsibility of completing the project on its own. Similar is the fate of Tungabhadra project. Telugu Ganga project is the project which can benefit Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu. It will supply water to the chronic drought prone areas of Rayalseema which is fast turning out to be a desert. Lakhs of acres of land in the area can be brought under irrigation if Telugu Ganga project is completed. It will also provide drinking water to the people in Madras. Such is the importance of Telugu Ganga. Our former Prime Minister, inaugurated this project and the State Govt. has already spent Rs. 100 crores on this project. But it is strange that the Central Government is dilly-dallying the clearance of this project. New issues are being raked

up to delay the clearance. Lot of dust is deliberately being kicked up. Instead of helping the State Govt. in speedy completion of Telugu Ganga hurdless are being created. It is made out to be an inter-State dispute. Now a new dimension is being added to it. The Centre State relationship factor is being now added to it. The Central Govt. and AP State Govt. are concerned with this project. It is not good to bring other States into the picture. Bring in other States into the picture by Central Govt. is not justified. I take this opportunity to request the Govt. to clear this project early and also help the State Govt. in early completion of various other projects. Tungabhadra high level canal will help in saving Rayalseema from drought. Our leader late Comrade Sundarayya enunciated our policy regarding water utilisation. According him, top priority should be accorded to supplying water to drought prone areas. If need be, the supply of irrigation water should be restricted to one crop in other areas. Then it will be possible to provide water to all the drought prone areas.

Andhra Pradesh is now reeling under unprecedented drought. Keeping this in view the Central Govt. should clear various important projects like Pocham padu Stage II, Tunga bhadra, Telugu Ganga and other important projects. The Central Government should also extend substantial financial assistance for early completion of all these projects.

Sir, to save the country from drought is the responsibility of the Central Government. The Central Government should realise its responsibility. Many projects which are under construction for decades should be completed early. This is the best way to face the challenge of drought. The water resources policy adopted in the past has been a failure. Non-completion of various projects in the country reflects the failure of the policy of the Govt. At least now, the Central Government should wake up and take up the Construction and speedy completion of the important projects and save the country from drought once and for all. Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the demands for Grants of the Department of Water, I would like to put forth certain points before you.

Ours is a vast country with large population. We have to face certain problems concerning water. Our Government have solved these problems to some extent during the last few years. We spent nearly Rs. 16047 crores during 1951 to 1982 on major, medium and minor irrigation schemes. At least 22.67 million hectares of land was brought under irrigation. This is not a mean achievement. The expenditure on the major, medium and minor irrigation schemes was Rs. 10,096 crores, Rs. 5,951 crores and Rs. 2840 crores respectively. As a result of this expenditure, about 59.7 million hectares of land was brought under irrigation. This is a significant achievement but still there are some shortcomings in this field.

With the increase in population, our problems are also increasing. It is the responsibility of our party to deal with such problems. It has drawn up certain programmes to harness the waters of our rivers and other water resources. The National Water Development Agency is seized of the issue of optimum utilization of the waters of major and minor rivers. It is planned to divert surplus water to the deficit areas. In the coming years, the people will be benefited from it. In this way, we shall make optimum use of the waters of the country. We support all these measures vigorously.

In this connection I have some suggestions to make. The Government say that irrigation is a State subject. But you should not take shelter from it any longer. In case some State do not utilize the amount drawn from the Centre, it results in escalation of cost of the project. If the Centre remain silent; the cost of the project will go on increasing and the work cannot be executed. There are a number of projects in our State whose cost has increased manifold. Your argument is that the Centre has no hand in it. But at least there should be a monitoring cell at the Centre to oversee the works being executed by the States. If it is found that some State is not carrying out the works properly, the Centre should take over that project and execute that it speedily.

There are a number of major public undertakings in the country which undertake projects in other countries but cannot execute them here in time. The Government should think over it. If our Government

[Shri Anadi Charan Das]

do not take steps in this direction; then no other Government can say that it can execute the work in time.

In this connection I would like to suggest that if the local contractor or some State Government fail to execute the work, the Centre should take over the work and execute it as a time bound programme. If the work is not completed in time, it entails a great loss. This enhances the cost of the project and ultimately the people have to suffer for that.

Regarding flood control, I would like to say something about Orissa. A small part of our area is hilly which is affected not by floods but by drought. But in the coastal area, floods occur at least once in two years. They cause great loss to life and property, crops and livestock. The Government have to compensate for the loss later on. So, this should be looked into properly.

Bhimkund Project was formulated for our area. But it was not approved for one reason or another. Now a plea is being given that it will entail heavy expenditure. But if you think seriously, you would find that the assistance given to the people by way of compensation on account of the loss suffered due to natural calamities comes to more than the expenditure on the project. So, the hon. Minister should take up the execution of Bhimkund Project speedily.

We find that the problem of siltation is increasing in the rivers. The Government have not formulated any problem to combat this menace. A programme on the lines of National Water Development Agency should be drawn up to contain the siltation of the rivers. Siltation is also one of the causes of floods which cause considerable damage. The Government must draw up a national policy for desiltation of the rivers. When I visited China, I saw that sand was being removed from the beds of the rivers. By drawing up a policy in this respect, water will be utilized properly, more irrigation will take place and we shall be able to raise good crops. If the rivers are desilted, floods will not recur because water will not overflow the banks of the rivers.

The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had emphasised the need of special Component Plan in every tribal area. For this, every State should conduct quantification of its need. But what we see is that some States do quantification of its need and some do not. Those which do so, show exaggerated figures. There should be a cell in your Ministry to see how much amount has been earmarked for it and what quantification has taken place for the tribal areas. What we have seen is that assistance is provided to individual schemes like minor irrigation and lift irrigation schemes but it is not provided to everyone. For this reason also there is need to create this cell.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to cover some more points but you have not allotted me enough time. I convey my thanks to you for the time given to me.

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Water Resources Bill, I would like to say that four major rivers namely Mahanadi, Narmada, Sone and Indravati emanate in Madhya Pradesh. Since it is located at a high attitude and is hilly area, it serves as an ideal and natural catchment area. But the benefit of these rivers is derived by the states situated downstream. In this situation attention should be paid to those areas specifically. The origin of Narmada river lies in the catchment area. All that water would benefit Gujarat. We do not want what Gujarat should not be benefited. Similar is the case with Mahanadi which has its origin in District Raipur and eastern region of Madhya Pradesh, but its water is providing benefit to Orissa through Hirakud dam and it should of course provide benefit to Orissa. Similar is the case with Sone river which is providing benefit to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The water of river Indravati is also being used by southern states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. This is but natural. In such circumstances Madhya Pradesh has to face great difficulty for irrigation purposes.

Some projects like Mahanadi Project are being implemented with the help of World Bank and it is bound to be delayed. But we would like to request you that it should be expedited and it should be executed at the earliest. But it is very difficult

to irrigate the entire area even after successful execution of the project. These major dams are dependent on rain water. If there are scanty rains, then the fate of this dam would be same as that of the small ponds and minor dams. In such a situation, the seven districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Sarguja, Bastar, Rajuandgaon and adjoining districts of Sidhi and Shahdol are not getting the full benefits from the rivers emanating from that area. I would like to request the hon. Minister to pay his attention to this aspect. You should provide special help to the Government of M. P. for the execution of small and minor projects and should issue directions to them in this regard. You should suggest them to convert small schemes and lift irrigation projects into major projects and with the help of all these projects, efforts should be made to irrigate the entire area. In the absence of these projects, the present famine-like situation is likely to continue despite approval and execution of some major projects. I believe that you would make special efforts to execute those small projects and in your reply you should announce some special schemes for these famine stricken areas. We would be very much satisfied if you reply in this connection.

Similarly, the people in hill areas are facing great difficulties in getting the supply of drinking water and it would not be wrong to say that they have been pining for drinking water for many years. In Bastar and other areas, though there are abundant rains, yet people have to face great difficulty in getting the supply of drinking water and they have to cover long distances to fetch drinking water. Rigs should be used there to supply drinking water to the villages. Only then the people of this area will have a sign of relief.

Alongwith these measures, minor irrigation projects can be taken up there. The rivers in that area are perennial rivers. Through Lift Irrigation Schemes water from the rivers Sheonath, Mahanadi and Indravati can be supplied to the area and the area can be saved from the famine. You make an assessment of the condition of that area and of the farmers. If irrigation facilities are ensured in that area, there could be maximum production of sugar cane in that area. The climate of

13.00 hrs.

that area is most suitable for the cultivation of oil-seeds. But in the absence of irrigation facilities, the famine stricken people of that area work as labourers on the roads or other places throughout the country. On making an enquiry, you would find that they are the hungry labourers from Chhatisgarh area. They do not get even sufficient wages in that area. Therefore, there is need to pay attention towards these people.

In the end, I would like to submit to you that your name reminds us of the legendary name of Lord Shanker who had supplied us the water of Ganga. Today also we are requesting you in the same manner to supply water to this area.

With these words, I support the demands for grants of the Department of Water Resources.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the debate on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources.

First of all I have to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for having reorganized this Ministry. It was originally Ministry of Irrigation and Power and it has now been reorganized and renamed as the Ministry of Water Resources. I am also happy that hon. Minister Shri Shankaranand, who is a dynamic person just like our Prime Minister and also Shri P. Chidambaram, is in charge of this Ministry.

A very important point with regard to water resources is this. Every day we see so many controversies arising between States with regard to water. Irrigation being the first point of the 20-point Programme of our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, even in the Plan sector it must be given the first priority and a lot of funds have to be allocated for doing some of the dams and irrigation projects in so many States. The Centre should not shift its responsibility by saying that is a State subject and that the Centre cannot interfere,

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]

I would request the hon Minister to nationalise all the rivers in this country. We have to form a National Water Grid in order to solve the problems. So many problems are arising between the States and we all know that. Yesterday there was a T.V. programme with Mr. Chitlae, Chairman of the Central Water Commission. He was saying that 'water is a precious resource'. I do agree, but at the same time I want to know what actually the Central Water Commission, which was formed in 1945, has done in the last 40 years. That is the question I want to put here. In the last 40 years what is the development that they have done with regard to irrigation in the country. In 1950-51 the total irrigated area was 22.6 million hectares. In 1979-80 it was 56.6 million hectares. By the end of 1985 it was 68 million hectares. I want to know whether the statistics given in the Annual Report for 1985-86 are correct. Creation of irrigation potential must be of the order of 2.5 million hectares per year. I want to know whether we have reached that goal. It has been stated in the Annual Report that it is the biggest programme in irrigation development in the world. I do agree. But my question is whether you have achieved the goal.

Even with regard to the flood prone areas, out of 40 million hectares you are able to achieve only 12.44 million hectares. This has been given as an approximate figure. It has also been stated that it is a reasonable degree of protection. That is all. You are able to give protection to only 12.44 million hectares. A reasonable degree of protection is being given with regard to flood control.

I request the Hon. Minister to say with regard to disputes which are pending for so many years. I can even cite an example with regard to the Cauveri dispute. About the Cauveri dispute our Hon. Minister knows fully well 100% of it. The basin States like Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry are involved in it. Actually it ought to have been settled by 1974 and even before that. But unfortunately Tamilnadu was having the Chief Minister Mr. Karunanidhi. He ought to have settled the issue because upto

1976 he was the Chief Minister in Tamilnadu. He ought to have settled or he ought to have brought it to the notice of the Central Government and it ought to have been settled by the end of 1974.

There was an agreement between Karnataka and Tamilnadu for sharing the Cauveri waters. There was an agreement in 1924 for a period of 50 years; that does not mean that after 50 years the agreement comes to a halt. Never. Actually it is a perennial agreement. It is a perennial agreement which says that the water is to be given from Karnataka to Tamilnadu for so many years. That is all and that does not mean that after 1974 the Tamilnadu is not having any right over it. We are having every right just like Karnataka over the Cauvery water.

Even the Central Water Commission is unable to settle this issue. With regard to Cauveri water dispute it has been stated that the waters of the Cauveri river system are almost fully utilised by the basin states like Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. There was a meeting with regard to Cauveri dispute in November 1985. It was suggested that pending the overall settlement on the sharing of the waters, the states might adopt a limited approach of clearing certain irrigation and hydel projects involving nominal consumption of water. That was the suggestion made by the Secretary and by the Minister in November 1985. I would like to know whether this has been put into effect. What are the hydel projects which have been cleared so far by this Ministry? So, you have not cleared the Hogenakal Hydel Project and other projects which are also involved in the Cauveri dispute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I am the only Member speaking from my Party sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The whole time given to your party is also over.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I will finish it Sir.

With regard to Cauveri dispute it has to be taken into account by the Hon. Minister

and also by the Hon. Prime Minister of India. That has to be settled soon, because otherwise the Tamilnadu has to go to a Court of Law and get a remedy for it.

There is a tribunal, but what is the use of having tribunals? Supposing if an award is passed by the tribunal, how are you going to implement or execute it? Where is the executive authority and where is the implementing authority to implement the award passed by the tribunal?

I can cite an example with regard to the Bachawat Award in the case of Krishna waters. Now are you going to implement the Bachawat award then? Now the Tamilnadu Government and the Karnataka Government are disputing over the Krishna waters.

Even with regard to Telugu Ganga project, we want only 15 TMC for Madras city for drinking purposes. That has to be cleared soon. I request the Hon. Minister to solve all these problems as immediately as possible. I again request the Hon. Minister that unless the river waters are nationalised we cannot solve the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the House is discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. I rise to support these demands.

There is one great burning problem about Indira Canal area in my constituency. I would like to tell you about that problem and other matters. With regard to distributaries in Indira Canal area, I would like to submit that the Irrigation Department of the Government had constructed Pucca distributaries in the Indira Canal area. Many complaints have been received from the farmers about the level and the sub-standard material used in their construction. The officers working in this area are adopting corrupt practices and they have prepared inflated estimates for their personal benefits. These estimates have no relation with the reality. The details of the charges to be realized from the farmers for the already constructed distributaries in Indira Canal area are as follows :—

1. Rs. 354.00 per hectare would be realized from the farmers for earth work irrespective of the total amount for the entire farm and irrespective of the quantum of earth work.
2. Rs. 842.00 per hectare would be realised from the farmers for the construction of distributary and for bricks and cement, which is excessive.
3. For 'Naka' and culvert, an amount of Rs. 250 has to be realised from the farmers, whereas only one 'Naka' as well as only one 'culvert' has to be constructed for each land-holding. Hence it is on the high side.
4. An amount of Rs. 29 per hectare is realized from the farmers for maintenance, whereas the construction work of distributaries is not completed even upto six years.
5. A sum of Rs. 29 per hectare is realized for tools and plants. Spade and other tools are not worn out during the work done in one hectare. These tools can be used in construction work for two years. A very huge amount has been misappropriated under this head.
6. A sum of Rs. 68 per hectare is charged for construction of buildings. A very huge amount has been spent on the construction of buildings. The life of buildings is upto 100 years. These buildings would be utilized by other officers of the Government. The Government would receive rent for these buildings. The why should the cost of construction of buildings be realized from the farmers. It is highly unjustified.

A sum of Rs. 217 per hectare is charged from the farmers for engineering and administrative expenditure. The Government officials receive allowances and expenses of conveyance from the State Government, but it is realized from the farmers. The staff engaged in this work is Government staff.

[Shri Birbal]

When these employees are working under the State Government, then why are the farmers asked to pay for them? Similarly a sum of Rs. 145 per hectare is charged from the farmers for physical contingency, iron sheets and tarpaulin etc., which is totally unjustified, because all the items belong to the State Government and are provided by the Government. All these things are used by the State Government and it would be proper if the Government bears the expenditure of their wear and tear. A sum of Rs. 56 per hectare is charged from the farmers for survey and planning, which is unjustified, because the entire machinery is under the State Government, then why should the farmers be asked to pay for survey and planning. The tiles used in the construction of distributaries are unbaked yellow, without any shape and not of the same size. In the construction of a distributary not even half of the required quantity of cement has been utilized. A very negligible quantity of rubble has been used in the construction of distributaries. In some cases, no rubble has been used at all, whereas an expenditure of lakhs of rupees has been shown in the records. The construction of distributaries is very sub-standard which is apparent from the very sight. No distributary has been constructed according to the correct level. Extreme carelessness has been shown in the construction of distributaries. For constructing the distributaries, the labourers worked as masons, that is why the distributaries have not been constructed properly. In the construction of the distributaries no curing has been done at all. After the construction of a distributary, field testing staff do not test the distributary on the spot and only formalities are completed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many problems in my area about Ganga Canal, Bhakra Canal and Indira Canal, but I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards only one problem. Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the construction of distributaries, land has been acquired from the farmers and after the construction of pucca distributaries the acreage of irrigated land as also the revenue of the Government has increased. When Government is earning more revenue, why is the farmer being

asked to pay. It is not justified. The entire expenditure should be borne by the Government. The Government should pay attention towards this matter. It is a very important matter. Decree orders are being served on the farmers by the banks and they are facing a great problem. This problem should, therefore, be resolved immediately. In my area, new canals are to be constructed from Sidhemukh and Nohar canal and I have been raising this matter and drawing the attention of the Government for the last 6 years. The papers regarding both these canals are pending in the office of the Central Water Commission. You should pay your attention to it so that these canals are constructed and the farmers are saved from starvation and the national production is increased. With these words, I would like to express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the Demands of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Water is one of the sources of life for all living beings but unfortunately, the country do not have a basic water policy. In our country, we have a number of policies such as Industrial Policy, Health Policy etc. but we do not yet have any policy regarding water. I request the Government that a suitable water policy resolution should be adopted in this session of Parliament or at least in the next session of Parliament.

In many places irrigation projects are necessary, but they do not sanctioned. Apart from them, a lot of existing irrigation projects need modernisation. There is a lot of wastage of water in many irrigation projects.

We have so far achieved far less as compared to the land that can be irrigated safely with the water that we have. The reasons for delay in the execution of the irrigation schemes have to be taken seriously.

In our predominantly agricultural country, the role of irrigation is very vital. The work of irrigation sector is far from satisfactory.

Effective flood control and drought control have not been done so far. Effective drought and flood control should be ensured. There are some, but these are not enough. As far back as 1962, the Irrigation Commission had suggested that there should be an overall plan for the development of water resources.

I feel that there is lack of integrated approach. The irrigation potential has to be integrated in the crop pattern and land development on the one hand and the credit that is needed by the farmers on the other hand. Unless we have an integrated approach and prepare our plan accordingly, we will not be able to make full use of the water. But the Plan, should contain not only the big irrigation canals, the underground water level, small and big rivers should be made use of.

At the moment, so far as West Bengal is concerned, I can say that DVC supplies irrigation water mainly to the districts of Burdwan and Hoogly. The supply is, however, erratic. No programme is declared in advance for the Bora crop. The villagers spend money but they often find that no water comes to their fields. There should be small channels which will carry the water from the big irrigation channels to each field. Integrated Plan should also contain the plan where deep tubewell, shallow tubewell and river lift irrigation can also be done for which a survey of whole of India is urgently needed.

Unless we have an integrated approach and prepare a plan, we will not be able to make full use of the water. The plan should contain not only the big irrigation channels, but distribution system also. Only then the people would get water without causing harm to others. I do not have the time, otherwise I would have explained. I have the experience that one district gets water at the expense of another district.

The tendency to undertake projects without being able to complete them on time should be discouraged. The detailed project report should be prepared and all the inputs should be collected before starting projects. Then only, we can economic the cost.

Delay in supply of equipments by various suppliers, shortage of key materials,

inadequate provision of fund and delay in the release of funds in time make the situation very painful. For well water irrigation, people have to depend on power supply. Though the number of pumpsets used in our country has increased, supply of power to these sets is very restricted.

The rural electrification programme should be given more importance. Irrigation is also very much dependent on electricity. Under the Ministry of Irrigation, there was a department called the Department of Underground Water Exploration. But now, when Irrigation comes under the Ministry of Water Resources, I do not know whether this Department is still under the Ministry of Water Resources. I hope the Minister will give me a reply on this point as to whether this Department is still under Water Resources. This Department should take the responsibility for exploration of water for chronically drought affected areas.

The Centre should not shift the responsibility saying that irrigation is a State subject. The Government, whether it be of State or Central, should provide irrigation facilities, wherever the soil can produce two or three crops. There is a vast potentiality for irrigation through lift irrigation also.

Use of solar energy need be given priority for irrigation through tubewells, because solar energy is being increasingly used in our country day by day.

There is soil erosion in certain areas of West Bengal and because of that we are losing the paddy land. Arrangements should be made to construct projects to stop this erosion. A portion of Midnapore has a very fertile soil. If irrigation facilities are provided there, that district will give sufficient paddy for the State and also for the country as a whole.

I should request the Government that Government should formulate and work out the irrigation policy in such a way that it would ensure all round development of the country.

So far as improving the living conditions in drought areas is concerned, since water resources are limited, we have to make a judicious choice while deciding on the area

[Dr. Phulrenu Guha]

to which irrigation benefit is to be extended. Before I conclude I must emphasise that there are a large number of villages where no drinking water facilities exist or even when the facilities exist, they are not at all enough. Apart from that, many tubewells are out of action and there is no arrangement to repair them. In summer, there is no water in the ponds. Animals and human beings straggle to use the water from the ponds. This is a very common problem in many places, particularly in the villages and it is a very pathetic scene. People suffer for want of drinking water and for want of other daily needs of personal use.

So far as rural West Bengal is concerned, I can say that most of the people suffer from stomach troubles due to bad quality of the water that they have to drink. Eighty per cent of the patients in the rural health centres suffer from complaints of stomach diseases. Arrangements should be made to supply piped drinking water to save the lives of these human beings. With these few suggestions, I support the demands.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : Sir, it is well-known that since time immemorial, agriculture continues to be the predominant factor of the Indian economy, and water is a vital input for realising the full potential of the same sector.

The Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for laying down the national water policy. I am making a few suggestions for improving or for optimal utilization of water resources in the country. Although water is a State subject, in fact, the State is really responsible for taking care of the full utilization of the water resources. But then the Ministry of the Central Government has got a very big role to play, particularly the Ministry is to coordinate and prepare a country-wide irrigation plan so that the full utilization of the water resources in the country can be in a balanced way. We are told and we know that the government is now preparing a national water policy. My suggestion is this: that such a national water policy should be on the basis of national outlook not only on the basis of regional policy. The Report has not yet come up. So, I request the Minister

concerned to take care of this policy so that in future we may not be faced with further inter-State disputes regarding water, so that the national water policy can be formulated on the national basis.

Water should be treated most precious and scarce national resources and the government should take care of it and as such there should be a national policy for optimal use of other water resources. In India, particularly when our economy is totally dependent on water, that is agriculture is very much correlated with water resources, then, keeping in mind the future of the country, from right now, we should take care that the utilization of the water should be very careful and the distribution of water throughout the country should be in a balanced way so that in future our country can be developed on the basis of national resources which we have, that is water.

I find from the statement made previously in the Lok Sabha that the cost of 181 major irrigation projects has gone up from the estimated cost of Rs. 3480 crores to Rs. 16,372 crores in India. So, I am making a suggestion why and under what circumstances the cost has gone to such a steep rise from Rs. 3481 crores to Rs. 16,372 crores; this has to be probed. If it is due to inadequate fund, if it is due to delay in acquisition of land for implementing projects or if it is due to shortage of construction of materials, then the government should take proper care in future so that those projects which are yet to be completed, the cost of those projects may not be shot up in this fashion.

These three things which are very important—acquisition of land, procurement of raw materials or construction of projects and inadequate funds have to be looked into. They may be taken care of.

Sir, in order to make full utilisation of the water resources we should involve the farmers. I am making a suggestion that the farmers may be involved in the planning and management of the irrigation system, so that the peasants who are getting direct benefit of the water resources in the country may also take part and they may also take some care regarding the management of this irrigation system.

In the State of West Bengal development of irrigation system and the full utilisation of the water resources is totally erratic. I request the Minister concerned to look into the matter.

Sir, it is known to everyone that the future of Calcutta Port, is very much dependant on the implementation of the Farakka Barrage. The speedy implementation and also coordination with Bangla Desh may help us to save the Calcutta Port and to save that future of Calcutta city itself which is again dependant on the future of the Calcutta Port.

Three districts in West Bengal have been suffering due to scarcity of water and sometimes drought and insufficient rainfall. These are Bankura, Purulia and North Bengal and the Khemawati Project is also causing a great havoc in the district of Bankura in West Bengal. The State Government, I believe, is not looking into this matter. If the State Government is not interested in looking after these neglected districts of Bankura and the other districts of Purulia, wherein scarcity is there—where this Khemawati Project is to be implemented—the Central Government may take notice of this particular thing.

The Tista Project which is also a very important project, has been delayed. I request the hon. Minister concerned to look into the matter so that in future this project may not be delayed too long.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Please give me some time more. One minute. It appears that—it is estimated—that 113 million acres of land can be brought under irrigation and out of this 58 million hectares can be used through major irrigation and 55 million hectares through minor irrigation projects. Thus, 113 million hectares can be brought under irrigation.

I may request, and I am making a suggestion that after the total integrated water policy has been formulated it may be examined whether the remaining area can be brought under irrigation because this is the figure I got about three years ago.

Efforts should be made to see that this area can be improved, by adopting and integrated water policy throughout the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : One more minute. The Command Area Development authorities have been executing various projects in different States to improve irrigation. But it is reported, that their impact is limited for want of proper training. Those engineers who are authorised to look after the projects in the command development area are not given proper training. Therefore, I am making this suggestion that there should be a mandatory provision of training to those engineers who are looking after the projects in the command development area.

With these words, I support the Demands of the Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Department of Water Resources. Earlier this Department was called Irrigation Department but now its name has been changed to Department of Water Resources. It is exactly what they call 'Old wine in new bottle'.

So far you have not been able to finalise a National Water Policy. Our country is an agricultural country and water resources are connected with agriculture. If we cannot provide water for agriculture then we cannot make progress in the field of agriculture. At present 69 per cent people are dependent on agriculture and they have no other opportunities of employment. Out of these 69 per cent, 43 per cent farmers comprise medium, poor and marginal farmers and the remaining 26 per cent are agricultural labourers. Our present Government professes a lot of interest in the agriculture but in spite of this we are lagging far behind in agriculture as compared to the other countries of the world.

It is said that we are self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains. Now we need not

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

import them from abroad. We remain contented by saying so. Our land is quite fertile. Had we been able to make available water to agriculture, we could have fed the entire world.

The irrigation schemes formulated by the Government are never completed within the stipulated time. Why? With the non-completion of schemes within the stipulated time, cost on the projects increases four-fold and the schemes too remain incomplete for years together. Had we made advancement in agriculture we could have coped with the problem of unemployment also and at the same time we could have put a check on the crimes which are committed due to unemployment.

China became free in 1949 *i.e.* two years after us. Before that it was far backward in the field of agriculture. The population there was so large that people were dying due to starvation. They neglected agriculture and you must bear in mind the fate of Chiang Kai Shaik due to agitation by the workers and the farmers. It was a farmers' agitation and they dumped him on a ship and sent him to Formosa. This too should be remembered by you. Presently under what phase the farmer is passing through? The Britishers had constructed a project on our area. In 1884 a dam was constructed on Sone river which provided water to many blocks and irrigation was guaranteed. With that facility certain parts of Aurangabad, Patna, Gaya and Bhojpur used to be irrigated but this Government could not maintain even that which had been constructed by the Britishers; it cannot even repair it with the result that two reservoirs Kochahassa Reservoir and Mali Reservoir. Under the Sone Irrigation Scheme, which used to meet the entire requirement of water, is now providing 30 per cent less and the command area has also been reduced by 30 per cent. When we visit that area, the farmers tell us that they were far better during the British regime because then they used to get full water. Why is it so? It is so because it has not been repaired. I know it is the job of the State Government but I would say to the hon. Minister that it is his duty to oversee the function of the State

Government. When situation in any State deteriorates you check it immediately. Therefore, I would say that you should not absolve yourself of this responsibility by stating that the matter relates to the State Government. You should write a specific letter to the State Government that it should get Kochahassa and Mali Reservoir desilted immediately so that their command areas get full water.

Secondly, two schemes were prepared for South Bihar. One scheme was Mubane Dam Scheme which was sent to you in 1975 and the second scheme was Punpun-Darbha Scheme which was sent to you in 1980. Both these schemes are pending with Central Water Development Commission for clearance. These are still being screened and have not been cleared. I have been repeatedly requesting you and the Department to clear them at the earliest so that the people of South Bihar, who are facing poverty and near starvation, are able to get rid of these once for all. I am, therefore, requesting you to clear these schemes at the earliest.

Also, Bihar Government has financial constraints. It does not have funds and these two schemes have not been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. You can very well imagine that if these are sanctioned after five years what will be the position? What would be the consequences? The condition of that area will further deteriorate. You must be reading daily in the newspaper that daily ten to twelve murders are being committed there. The reason for this is that people are without work, agriculture has not made advancement, people are unemployed and the farmers' children have nothing to do. Therefore, they get misled and take to wrong path. Therefore, it is very necessary that these should be taken up in the Seventh Five Year Plan and the Bihar Government should be allocated special grants for these two schemes.

Thirdly, Water Development Commission was set up in our State during the tenure of Dr. Jagannath Mishra. That was later dissolved and in its place Water Corporation was constituted. It has become a den of corruption. The result is that the employees have not get their salaries for one year. People resorted to agitation and thousands of

them went to jails. From April 1 the Corporation has been converted into a Department. There were 4 to 5 Blocks namely, Kako, Maqdoompur, Jabanabad, Karmi and Bela which had tubewells. The number of tubewells in each Block varied—*i.e.* somewhere it was 20, somewhere 15 and somewhere 24 but there is none at present.

Their equipments have been pilfered. From this you can guess the attitude of the Government towards agriculture. This shows whether the Government is anti-agriculturist or pro-agriculturist? Crores of rupees, were invested on these tubewells and all the investment has gone waste. Whatever the source of investment but it was hard earned money. Now crores of rupees more will be required for repairing those tubewells. I would, therefore, request that this should also be investigated as to why such a situation has arisen?

In 1975 boring was done for three tubewells in Ghosi Block but no further progress has been made on these projects. These have been left incomplete. This is the attitude of the Government towards agriculture. I would like to remind the Government that if agriculture in the country does not progress, the integrity of the country would be in jeopardy. I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, I am grateful to you that I could get this opportunity to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister certain specific problems of my constituency. I shall be grateful to the Minister of my constituency which is a chronically drought-affected area gets at least a glass of water for irrigation in the coming year!

In my constituency, beginning from Jatni to Daspalla, which covers about 19 Panchayat Samitis of blocks, there are chronically drought-affected areas. To overcome this problem, the Government of Orissa submitted an irrigation project, named Manibadhra project, which will provide irrigation to more than 3 lakh acres in same parts of my constituency. But, as this project will cost about Rs. 1,000 crores and no spade work has started yet. I think that it may not come up in the Seventh Plan,

I feel that it is better if it comes up in the Seventh Plan. But as things stand, it appears that it may not come up in the Seventh Plan. So, there is another project which is a medium irrigation project called Brutang project, which can be taken up. A separate division was created. In one of his replies to me, the Central Minister has stated that this Project is being included as an integrated irrigation project linked up with other irrigation projects. There will be 3 or 4 projects together. But it will take time. So, I feel that Brutang irrigation project should be taken up separately in the Seventh Plan, so that, in my area, at least 50 to 60 thousand acres can get permanent irrigation facilities in the 7th Plan itself. I hope that the Minister will give some special attention to this Brutang Irrigation Project. The annual rainfall in this area was 56 inches during the last decade. But today it has gone down to 48 inches. There are many rivers which are flowing in this area which cause havoc during the rains. If we could preserve these rain waters, then 50 per cent of the problem of drought would be solved.

Sir, I have read in some newspaper reports that the Central Government is proposing to assist directly minor irrigation projects in various States. In my area, at least if we get this assistance, then, with the help of voluntary agencies, we can put up bunds over the streams of these rivers. This will help in solving the problem of these drought-affected areas.

Sir, I wish to make another suggestion in this connection. Let there be a re-survey of the entire ayacut area covered under minor irrigation schemes in Orissa. State Governments have given reports of areas covered by minor irrigation, but, actually that much of area is not covered under minor irrigation. In Orissa, about 7 lakhs of acres which do not get any facilities from minor irrigation schemes are included in the ayacut area and these farmers are being compelled to pay irrigation tax for the same, although they do not get the irrigation facilities. And therefore, there is a clamour from the farmers saying why that should not be re-surveyed again because the figures have been given by the Government that so many acres of land are getting irrigation. So I strongly plead for a re-survey of those area, which are not receiving irrigation, and

[Shri Chintamani Paaigrahi]

exemption of those areas from irrigation tax. I hope millions of farmers all over the country will be benefited from this measure. I also hope that this meets the overall situation—not only in Orissa, but in almost all the States in the country.

Another important problem which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that Orissa is one of the States which is mostly ravaged by floods or drought or cyclone every year. This is a constant phenomenon in Orissa. Therefore, we are requesting the Central Government again and again for establishing a separate flood forecasting hydrological circle for Orissa. Every time I put a question in this regard, I am told 'It is under consideration.' I hope in the Seventh Plan at least Orissa will get a separate hydrological circle.

With this request, I thank you and the hon. Minister and I support this Ministry's Demands for Grants. And I hope our hon. Minister will be kind enough to get at least some irrigation schemes for my constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, India is a vast country and its mainstay is agriculture on which 70 to 80 per cent of the population is dependent. Agriculture in this country depends totally on water. It is a country which has both the hottest and the wettest places in the world. It has cherrapunjee as well as Thar desert. The Water Resources Department has to take decisions keeping in view all these things. Just as we have Education Policy, Industrial Policy and other policies, we must formulate a National Water Policy also so that water resources are properly utilised and these are used more and more for agriculture and other purposes.

All efforts of the farmer depend on the water resources of this country. The farmer,

given of the foodgrains, with his untiring hardwork has made the country self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains but he does not get fair and remunerative price for his produce. He does not get water facilities in time. Even then he has shown to the world that the Indian farmer is strong enough to feed his countymen. Today we are self-dependent in foodgrains. The population of our country is about 700 million and it is increasing at the rate of two per cent every year. If this trend of growth remains unchecked, the population will be 800 million by the end of the century. We shall, therefore, have to put in more efforts to meet our requirements of foodgrain. We have achieved our goal of 151.11 million tonne foodgrains but to meet the requirement of our increased population we shall require 200 to 250 million tonne foodgrains. Therefore, it is the right time for us to pay attention towards optimum utilization of our irrigation resources and water resources. If we fail to do so we would be in trouble in the coming years.

You know, in our country we have 40 inch rainfall and we have ground water, flood water, surface water resources.

14.00 hrs.

Our Government has undertaken so many big projects but, Sir, I am sorry to say in this House that proper utilisation of these projects is not being made, although the whole country has full faith in the efficiency of our hon. Water Resource Minister, Shri Shankaranand. The population of Uttar Pradesh is about 12 crores and the main occupation of the people of the State is agriculture. Therefore, irrigation facilities are very important there but at present due importance is not being shown to it. The Bhalu dam and Kavnali projects were to be started in collaboration with the Nepal Government. But these are not being undertaken as per the schedule and are being prolonged. As a result of it eastern Uttar Pradesh is suffering due to floods, soil erosion and waterlogging. This water could be utilised for the purpose of irrigation and power generation. That is why every year the rivers Ghagra, Rapti and Tons are flooded causing heavy damage in the area and thousands of persons are rendered homeless. I request the hon. Water Resource

Minister to pay special attention towards it. In view of the deteriorating condition of irrigation facilities in Uttar Pradesh, the World Bank had tried to meet the requirement by installing tubewells, but it has not proved successful. At some places the strata is not suitable and at some places electricity is not available. Wherever water pumps have been installed they are not in working condition. Some eastern Districts of Uttar Pradesh such as Azamgarh, Deoria, Ghazipur, Ballia and Gorakhpur are affected by floods every year. There is waterlogging and erosion during the month of September and October. The State Government try its level best to combat these problems but cannot provide relief to the people. I request the hon. Water Resource Minister to pay attention towards it. In view of continuous heavy expenditure being incurred on account of the havoc caused by floods in East U.P., the people of the Western region of Uttar Pradesh have started making a demand that the Western region should be separated from the Eastern region. It requires special attention of the hon. Water Resource Minister. A comprehensive plan should be formulated to eliminate the problems of floods, soil erosion and waterlogging once for all. The Ghagra river is causing heavy soil erosion in the village, Mahula Chuitidand in Azamgarh. On my request, the Uttar Pradesh Government is spending about Rs. 17-18 crores to check soil erosion but the officials of the Irrigation Department are misappropriating these funds and as a result, the normal irrigation facilities have come to a standstill. The whole Department is treating this erosion as a godsent opportunity to misappropriate the funds. Water pumps are out of order, minor canals are not being constructed, V.R.B.s, C.R.B.s are not being made, canals are not being desilted and fake bills for payment are being made. The need of the hour is that our Irrigation Department should be more alert and efficient to utilise every drop of water so that our farmers may produce more foodgrains by utilising this water. I also want to say that in case of such erosion, general programmes should not be ignored.

I would also like to submit that drinking water problem in the villages is also very acute. After so many years of independence, we could not solve this gigantic and important problem. In the rural areas people are not getting even a glass of potable water. I

would like to draw your attention towards it. In many of our villages in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, both man and animal drink water out of the same dirty pond. If you see that water you will start vomiting. This dirty water spreads so many fatal diseases. The Uttar Pradesh Government had made a provision for drinking water tanks in the Fifth Five Year Plan but it has not been included in the Sixth and the Seventh Five Year Plans. What a paradox it is that Government have banned this important programme when there is great necessity of water. It is not understood why drinking water supply schemes have been dropped in the Sixth and the Seventh Five Year Plans. I request the hon. Water Resource Minister to revive the said scheme and one tank should be provided to each village.

The Sharda Project was started in view of the poverty and special circumstances of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. This is an economical scheme but will provide more water. When the farmer is not getting a fair price for his produce, how long can he use costly irrigation facilities? I am sorry to say that Sharda Project in Eastern Uttar Pradesh was to be completed in 1976-77 or latest by 1980; but it is still lying incomplete in 1986. Even half of its development work has not been completed. The plea is being advanced that farmers are not prepared to part with land and we are short of funds. We have borrowed from the World Bank on interest but the work is lying suspended. We do not have time bound programmes. It is a big shortcoming of our Government. If we complete this work in 1986 or by 1987, we would effect a saving in the interest to be paid to the World Bank. As a result, the farmers would get water in adequate quantity and would produce more.

Sir, Uttar Pradesh is an agro-oriented State. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, Rs. 1202 crores was earmarked to bring 15.19 lakh hectare land under irrigation. But the target could not be achieved. Now in the Seventh Five Year Plan we have allocated Rs. 1869 crores to bring 14 lakh hectare land under irrigation, which is quite wrong. It should have been more than this. I am of the opinion that in Uttar Pradesh and particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh there are more possibilities of irrigation, where there is need to effect better water management through flood and drought control. The

[Shri Raj Kumar Rai]

first point of our Twenty Point Programme is—development of water resources for irrigation. Shrimati Indiraji is no more with us. We are grateful to her for formulating such plans and programmes for our country. But our Government, which claims to be following in her footsteps, is toning down the targets and allocations for irrigation programmes for Uttar Pradesh which is predominantly an agricultural state. It is being ignored in the matter of agriculture, animal husbandry, water resources and family planning. The High Breed Centre has been shifted from Mathura. I want to draw your attention that waterlogging is a major problem of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It results in inundating of roads and fields. It also causes damage to the houses and spreads diseases. These diseases take a toll of human life Steps should be taken to pump out this water immediately,

With these words I thank you.

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, water an important factor in the economic development of our country. I am happy to note that the Central Government as well as the different State Governments have taken many steps for proper utilisation of water in each Five Year Plan. We have set a target to bring 113 million hectares under irrigation by the end of this century by using our water potentials. But so far we have managed to bring 68 million hectares under irrigation. It is envisaged to bring 12.8 million hectares under irrigation in the Seventh Five Year Plan and out of it Rajasthan will get water for 5 lakh 70 thousand hectares.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan is largely a desert State and there is a great scarcity of water there. The Government of India have made efforts to construct Indira Gandhi Canal and provide other means to Rajasthan. But I come from an area where facilities for irrigation are still negligible. In this part of Rajasthan water is available in abundance and I had hoped that the areas which had water in abundance would be developed properly. But Mr. Chairman I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention towards Jhalawar, through which 3-4 big and some small rivers flow and for which several irrigation schemes had also been chalked out. But so far water has been—supplied

only to 6.78 per cent of the total area of Jhalawar. It is the lowest in comparison to the percentage of in other 27 districts of Rajasthan. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to tell the hon. Minister that the other Districts of Rajasthan have a higher percentage of land under irrigation. Kota has 30 per cent Bundi, has 55 per cent, Tonk has 20 per cent and other districts also have a higher percentage of irrigation. But Jhalawar District has the lowest percentage of irrigation. I would like to submit that not much effect is needed to supply water and irrigation facilities in an area where water is available and for which irrigation schemes have been prepared. But in one such district the area under irrigation is the least. Therefore, I will request you to give it a thought and also to the incomplete irrigation schemes which have already been sanctioned.

14.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In my constituency, Hamirpur, Hinglot Lethari, Anderi, Lasi, Chhabra (Chhipa Board), Hatai Peh and Berni are the medium irrigation schemes which have been approved but work has not been started on them so far. Therefore, I feel that these plans should be taken up on priority basis and irrigation facilities should be provided to the people there, as water is already available there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several embankments and ponds were constructed in the areas where water was available in abundance and the erstwhile princely States also utilised water therefrom. But, unfortunately, all these old embankments, ponds or irrigation systems have developed leakages due to which water is being wasted. New means of irrigation are not being developed and the old ones are not being maintained properly. Therefore, attention should be paid to the means already available. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, along with water, other related important factors such as erosion and waterlogging also need to be paid attention. The waterlogging problem in those areas is due to mismanagement which is getting worse. On the one hand there is no progress in the means of irrigation and on the other hand the available irrigation resources are not being utilized properly which results in waterlogging. Thousands of bighas of

land is affected by waterlogging in Chambal Command Area. There is no plan for its development. Similarly, there is also the serious problem of erosion. Although from area point of view, only a small part of Kota Division is irrigated, yet as far as erosion is concerned, this small district accounts for 50 per cent of total soil erosion of Rajasthan. The reason is the non-implementation of the Land Use Policy. It rains heavily and there are no arrangements to store this water. It results in floods which causes soil erosion. It ultimately leads to the reduction in the fertility of the land. This is an important factor which should be given due consideration. There is a Chambal scheme which irrigates a large area, but because of siltation, the capacity of the reservoir is decreasing and water is not being used properly. Soil erosion is also causing siltation in the Chambal river. Its capacity is decreasing day by day and as such there is need to pay attention to it. The land ceiling Act was enacted to help the small farmers by making land available to them. It was after considerable effort that 43 lakh acres of land could be made available for distribution. In contrast, four times this area has been rendered useless due to waterlogging. That land is very good for cultivation. This land is becoming useless due to mismanagement. No attention is being paid to it. The land which could have been given to the poor is becoming useless due to waterlogging.

(Interruptions)

It is very rarely that I get an opportunity to speak, but even then we get very little time to speak. In the end, I want to say that water should be utilized in the areas where it is available. With these words I conclude.

*SHRI SUDARSAN DAS (Karimganj):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Karimganj and Kachhar districts of Assam which is known as the Barak valley and which has remained very backward due to geographical reasons, has innumerable problems. But it is a matter of regret that neither the State Government nor the Central Government is taking any steps to solve any of the problems peacefully. Because of that the minds of

the people of this area are gradually becoming bitter and poisoned.

Nearly 80% of the people of this area live in villages and agriculture is their only occupation and means of livelihood. Unfortunately this area is affected by floods at least once every year and in some years floods come even 2 or 3 times over. As a result of the floods the condition of the farmers one deteriorating day by day. In some areas of Karimganj the flood waters take a long to recede.

Sir, the main river of this area is the 'Barak' river. This river originates in Manipur, then flowing through the Silchar sub-division, it takes the name of Surma and Kushiara near Bhanga in Karimganj district and from there it flows into Bangladesh. From Bhanga, the 26 Km. long midstream of Kushiara river is the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The 'Jatinga' river flowing from the North Kachhar hills falls in the Barak river. The 'Dbaleshwari' river originates in Mizoram and after carrying all the waters of the Hailakundi sub-division also falls into the Barak river near Katakhal Railway station after changing its name to 'Katakhal'. The two major rivers of Karimganj viz. the Singla and Langai, after originating from Mizoram, join together near Karimganj town. From there they flow on and fall in the Hakaluki Haor in Bangladesh. Previously about half the water of Singla and Langai rivers used to fall in the Kushiara river. But in order to prevent the flood waters of the Barak river from entering Karimganj district, a dam has been constructed near Char-gola, on 'Kachua' river, which is a tributary of 'Singla'. After plugging this river, the entire volume of water has been made to fall in the 'Langai' river. Now the Langai river is not able to carry this large volume of water because the 'Hakaluki Haor' in Bangladesh becoming silted. I have heard that there the Bangladesh Government has taken up projects for the improvement of 'Hakaluki Haor'. If that is so, then extensive areas of the Karimganj district shall remain submerged. The only way to remedy this, is to construct the 'Barak' dam.

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Sudarsan Das]

In reply to a question of mine, the hon. Minister of water resources had said that the proposed 1500 m.w. capacity Barak dam, project is under the consideration of the power department of the Central Energy Ministry. As soon as it is considered to be economically viable, the project will be implemented. I will request the hon. Minister to please expedite this Barak Dam Project.

When the said Barak project is implemented, the shattered agricultural economy of the entire area will be revived and it will get a new lease of life.

The Barak valley will be saved from the furry of devastating floods, and the farmers will be able to cultivate their lands in peace and without fear.

It will be possible to irrigate the fields which has not been possible so far due to the recurring floods. At the time of floods, all internal transport and communication is cut off. Roads remain unusable. As a result, road transport in entire Tripura, Mizoram, West Manipur, North Kachhar hills and in the Barak valley comes to a halt. The condition of the roads afterwards becomes very miserable.

After the dam is constructed, the crop of the months of April and May *viz.* Boro paddy and early Aus paddy will be saved which is at present destroyed by the floods which devastate thousands and thousands of hectares under this crop. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister to help to turn this whole area in a smiling, green, prosperous crop producing area by building a dam on this 'river of tears' of the Barak valley and by taming it for the good of the people.

If this project is implemented, then along with eliminating the power shortage of this area, it will help new industries to come up and that will go a long way in solving the unemployment problem also. I once again appeal for the early implementation of this Barak project. With that I conclude.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL
(Kopergaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of

the Ministry of Water Resources. In our country, during the last 30 to 35 years there has been a lot of development in the field of water resources. This Ministry has a direct bearing on agriculture and land is cultivated only in the rural areas. Therefore, I would not like to say much on this subject because the time at my disposal limited. I would, therefore, express my views in brief.

The current year being the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan, I hope that whatever suggestions are offered in this connection, would be studied in depth and necessary steps would be taken in areas which require improvement. This alone will ensure the development of our agriculture and water resources. The total outlay for irrigation in the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 11,556 crores out of which Rs. 1771 crores have been earmarked only for the command area. I feel that this amount is very inadequate for the full development of our country's irrigation potential and hence allocation for this purpose should be increased. There is a need for more funds also because I can say on the basis of my experience in Maharashtra that the development programmes of the command areas continue even ten years after the completion of the irrigation project and we are not able to use the water and it gets wasted inside the dam. Hence, there is need for allocation of more funds for this area.

Secondly, the implementation of our projects is always delayed. The construction cost of 156 ongoing projects has increased by 565 per cent. These projects were to be completed by spending an amount of Rs. 2,156 crores initially, but now the cost has escalated to Rs. 14,000 crores. The cost of irrigation of one hectare of land during the First Five Year Plan was Rs. 1200 which has increased to Rs. 19,721 in the Sixth Plan and Rs. 26,872 in the Seventh Five Year Plan. This does not include either the cost of land development programmes, or that of the water sources and water management schemes. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any bonus is given or extra funds allocated to those States which complete their projects by the stipulated date. The delays are generally caused by the fact that several agencies are involved in it and none feels responsible for it. The Centre blames the

State that the latter did not submit its projects properly, and the State accuses the Centre of not sanctioning the projects in time. Sometime it attributes the delay to non receipt of technical clearance in time. The Minister in his answer to the questions in this connection, had said that inordinate delay leads to cost escalation. Hence, my request is that steps should be taken to avoid delays in implementation of projects and those found responsible for delay, should be punished.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Seventh Five Year Plan we have envisaged an irrigation potential of 12.9 million hectares. In this connection, we should also pay attention to solving the problem of waterlogging and apply all our modernised water management techniques. If waterlogging problem is not solved, our efforts to increase irrigation potential will not yield expected results. Presently, under the Seventh Five Year Plan we propose to bring four lakh hectares of land under irrigation. On the other hand, more than three lakh hectares of land will be affected due to waterlogging. So, on the hand, we are trying to increase the productivity of some areas through irrigation, and on the other hand our efforts are being negated by the problem of waterlogging in other areas. So, along with this, we must introduce a system of training as the Centre has recently initiated a ground water scheme at the national level in connection with a World Bank Project. Maharashtra and other States have sent similar schemes which should be cleared by the Centre. Therefore, in place of the ground water scheme, intensive irrigation and intensive cultivation schemes should be introduced so that we may not have to face the problem of waterlogging. By this process we want to know this much that how much quantity of water is available in the dam and how much has been utilised and if not utilised intensive irrigation may be resorted to.

At present there is a Jayakvadi dam and Moola dam in Maharashtra. An efficient administrator of Maharashtra, Shri Kshitre, who is sitting here, knows how much irrigation potential has been developed in Jayakvadi and Moola but half of this land has gone waste. I think same must have happened in other areas also this problem can also. This problem can be solved through

Ground water Scheme and there may be other solutions to this problems also, but I am not aware of them. Our canals also suffer from this seepage problem. There is about 50-55 per cent of seepage and evaporation. The lining work is in progress, but in my opinion there is no need to spend on lining in the dry areas. Instead, the same amount can be spent for providing water to the drought affected areas and in this way the problem of drought can be tackled to some extent. The 50 per cent of water that is going waste and is not being utilised, can be used to effect saving. As has been stated in the World Bank report, even if 30 per cent of this water could be put into use, it would help irrigate a large area of land. But to create irrigation potentials we have to expand the infrastructure because the cost of infrastructure is increasing day by day. On account of this escalation in cost we try to effect a cut in allocation and expect better results. But we fail to get better results. Again, there had been some delay in the implementation of certain projects and one of the causes of the delay could have been rehabilitation of the area people. Several rules have been framed by the State Government to deal with the rehabilitation projects. Now the Centre is saying that rehabilitation is a State subject. The farmers are not paid proper price for their land under the rehabilitation programmes. When the farmers take the issue to the court, they are paid ten times more than that offered by the Government, on account of the verdict of the court. Therefore, my request is that the farmers should get a good price for their land. Again, the farmers are being re-settled in the villages, where there is no likelihood of any irrigation facilities before a period of ten years. Moreover, they should not be resettled individually but in groups so that they can jointly ensure that their land gets irrigation facilities at the earliest.

Presently, we have been talking about the Employment Guarantee Scheme. This scheme is progressing well in Maharashtra. We can also begin a similar Rural Employment Scheme and create a Land Army for assisting in the construction of canals and dams. The prime Minister had assured us that a project would be initiated for the people of the dry land areas which would provide a

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

permanent solution to their problem. We should guard against the fact that these drought affected areas should not change into drought resistant ones. My suggestion is that a Land Army consisting of farmers should be created in every State. Further, we have a huge buffer stock of foodgrains which is rotting in the godowns. Why don't we create a Land Army under the Food for Work Scheme, so that more and more land could be irrigated, which would contribute to a greater and more rapid development.

Unless water management is set right, we shall not be able to achieve our targets. Recently, a mention was made about the surface and ground water system. A circular has been issued at Kada in which it was written that the drift irrigation, lift irrigation and sprinkle irrigation systems are State subjects. You have mentioned about it in your report as well. I would suggest that the facility of lift and sprinkle irrigation should be made available to the land where it is irrigation by the surface water distribution system. The farmer takes a loan of Rs. 10,000 and also takes subsidy from the Government. I would suggest that a provision should be made in the project itself so as to solve the problem of water-logging.

Besides the facility of providing loan to the farmers for the drift and sprinkle irrigation in Maharashtra, some other project should also be undertaken for their benefit. I think it would increase the employment opportunities.

It has been mentioned in the report that farmers are being provided bore-wells free of cost. According to my knowledge, no farmer in Maharashtra, whether small farmer, marginal farmer or tribal farmer, has been provided bore-well free of cost. I would suggest that a National Lift Irrigation Corporation should be set up. Many lift irrigation schemes are pending with the Agriculture Department for clearance. Till now subsidy was given to the extent of 50 per cent to 75 per cent. Unless something is done for the desert and the drought prone areas, no development can take place. A National Lift Irrigation Corporation should be set up. Now a single Ministry has been created to look

after all the works relating to the management of water.

In Maharashtra, as many as 25 major projects and 47 medium projects are pending for clearance. We do not know what action is being taken on them? Mention about Krishna river, Godavari river and Telugu Ganga was also made. I would like to caution the hon. Minister that taking decision on the Telugu Ganga without consulting the concerned State will create trouble. It will just result in unrest and no good will come out of it.

All the projects received from Maharashtra should be cleared immediately. Our new hon. Chief Minister has announced that works regarding dams and canals would be taken up under the Employment Guarantee Scheme to combat the drought condition in Maharashtra.

It has been the policy of the Government of India to take action in regard to the drought affected areas which may prevent the recurrence of such a situation there. I would request the hon. Minister that more allocation should be made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for Maharashtra to deal with the drought situation there. In the absence of water, there is a problem for making provision of water for the cattle. The farmer is facing great hardship without water. If he gets water, many problems confronting him will be solved.

Mention has been made about the 113 million hectares of land to be brought under irrigation. In regard to Maharashtra, the report of the Barwe Commission has opined that not more than 30 to 35 per cent of land would be irrigated. But experience has shown that more than 40 per cent of land can be irrigated. There is need to introduce a new irrigation system. By introducing a new irrigation system and through modernisation as well as by improving the water management, more than 113 million hectares of land can be irrigated.

In the end, I would request the hon. Minister to allot more funds for those areas which have been hit by drought. A Land Army should also be raised. The farmers will get relief if more canals are constructed in the drought prone areas. With these few words I support the demands.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad that this Ministry has been given this new shape. Earlier we used to have the Irrigation Ministry; that was not so satisfactory. My hon. friend Shri Patil has dealt with the subject very thoroughly.

There are two or three points which would have to be taken into consideration by the Minister. One of our friend from Telugu Desam was accusing the Central Government as well as the Minister of purposely neglecting the claims of Andhra Government for what is known as Telugu Ganga. I am not prepared to support him in that accusation, but I do request the hon. Minister to take some special trouble and try to deal with that matter in a more statesman like manner. After all, it is not a particular party demand but all of us are involved in this particular question. What is it which is in dispute? Only about the surplus water. There was a settlement made by the Tribunal as to their respective shares. In addition to that, there would be some surplus water. But the difficulty is that surplus water cannot be taken for granted for ever and ever. Therefore, in some years when it is quite possible there would not be that much of surplus water, and therefore, there would be the danger of the tail-end area, the whole of that water course, not getting enough water. If the Andhra people are prepared to take that risk and are ready to go ahead with two or three of their own irrigation schemes to help Drought Prone Rayalaseema Peasants. I do not understand how it is possible for us to satisfy our people there, that the stand being taken by our Kannada friend is quite justifiable, that is where our difficulty arises. But then, at the same time we have also to keep in mind what might happen if and when that surplus water does not materialise and there would be a deficit. And then in that case, not only the new irrigation projects in Rayalaseema which would be created here and now, but also the earlier projects that have already been there come to be the sufferers. Then, there would be conflict between the new beneficiaries and the earlier beneficiaries. For the time being, the Andhra Government is prepared to take that risk and it is not possible for us to convince the Andhra people as a whole that

they are not justified in taking this risk. If we were to say so, then it would mean that we are giving too much prominence to our political defferences. Therefore, I would like my hon. friend, the Minister, to take into consideration this cause for embarrassment that has arisen as a result of this unnecessary dispute that has been raised over the use of the surplus water. It is not about the quantum of distribution that has already been made that we are now quarrelling about, it is only about what might be the surplus, that surplus would be in doubt for a certain years only. I want the Minister as well as the Ministry to give some special consideration to this aspect of it and otherwise it becomes embarrassing for us to convince our masses of people. I know, it is equally embarrassing for those people in Karnataka. In fact, at one time, their Chief Minister was statesman enough to say that there would be no objection and also to wonder whether there would be any objection at all. He was prepared to cooperate with the Andhra Chief Minister on a political basis and had abstained from raising objections. But those people themselves have gone mad and they have embarrassed him also, with the result that he is trying to obstruct now. The dispute is now at the Centre. It is placed in their hands and they are obliged to hold the baby. The parties which are parents to this dispute are not concerned as to how it would be possible for the Centre to do so. They are only anxious that the Central Government should do their duty. What is the duty of the Central Government? How can the Central Government move about it?

I would like to make one suggestion. Let the Central Government appoint two or three expert engineers to go into this surplus matter, as to how much of that surplus water can be taken for granted and how much of it can be allowed here and now to be utilised or to be taken charge of by the Andhras. Let that report be made within six months or at the most, within one year. Andhras are not prepared to wait even for that one year. It is true. But at the same time, the Central Government should also get over this particular difficulty. Let them get it studied that way, as to how, to what extent and in what manner this surplus water can be allowed to be made use of by the Andhras, not with the purpose of obstruct-

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

ing but with the sole purpose of enabling the Andhra people to make the best possible use, upto the maximum degree, of this surplus water, which is now going into the sea. Otherwise, it is very difficult indeed for us to explain to the people at all and carry conviction.

There is another point made by my hon. friend Shri Patil. This water is a gift from the God, but it is being disturbed by nuclear experiments that are being made. All kinds of sputniks are thrown into the sky with the result that the whole currents are being disturbed. Now, we cannot take for granted the currents of the monsoons. The whole thing is going to be upset and this has got to be studied as to what extent we can possibly assure ourselves against this kind of a new phenomenon, this disturbance that has come to us now.

Thirdly, Sir take the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. They appear to be politically very powerful and very big and from the point of view of population also, they have huge population. But at the same time, they are some of the most backward States. If we look at it from the point of view of the Kisans, they are the least developed people. At the foot of the Himalayas, they have got too much of water and they do not know what to do with it. The whole of it flows down, carrying away most valuable earth from there, with the result that the Kisans are left helpless and adrift. They suffer from failure of crops. It is very difficult for them to be sure of even one good crop in a year. Some way has got to be found to protect them from this kind of an avalanche, this flow of water. The Southern part of these two States and especially the State of Bihar suffer from drought. They have got to be protected from this too. Engineers have to put their heads together in order to see how we can possibly save the Kisans in the Northern and Southern parts of these two great States. They hold a key position in our country because out of 700 million people, nearly 150 to 170 million people happen to live there. When you look at this problem from the Kisans' point of view, they are the poorest of the people and they have got to be helped. Very little thought has been given to this, except for the Kosi embank-

ment and the Kosi river management, which has been taken up by the Government sometime back. But not enough has been done and very much more has got to be done. And that is where Nepal comes to play a very important role in our economy. And we have got to deal with Nepal in a friendly manner, in a cooperative manner, so that they would also be benefited and we would be protected from the flow of these rivers from the Himalayas.

Coming down to the South, Sir, yesterday, one of our friends from Kerala suggested that the water-way across Kerala should be treated as a National Water-way. So is the case also, Sir, with the good old Buckingham Canal which used to start from Kakinada and it used to go down to Madras, right down to Nagapatinam. Easily 750 kms. to 800 kms. waterway there is. It was developed before the Railways came in. After that, it was neglected by the British so far as the waterway was concerned because they were interested in the railways. It has got to be taken up again as one of the most important National Waterways in our country.

Then there is a Ganga waterway too from Allahabad to Calcutta. I am glad that this Ganga Authority has been brought into existence. Similar is the need for establishing a Water Authority for Godavari, Krishna, Pennar and then right down to Cauveri. Thought has got to be given not that Sir, thought was given by that eminent Engineer, Dr. K.L. Rao, who had the courage to tell us that what Sir Arthur Cotton once dreamt about could be taken up as a practical achievement before our engineers as well as our financiers would cooperate with one another and place necessary funds in order to help the Gangetic waters to flow right down to Cauveri and reach upto Kanyakumari. It can be done. It ought to be taken up as a practical proposition, stage by stage, possible within 50 years or 60 years or whatever it is—We are now moving towards the Twenty-first Century. Now, let us make a beginning in the direction so far as use of waterways or use of waters are concerned.

Then there is a question of floods. You see, too much of importance, too much

of stress, has been laid by so many of us including myself upon irrigation.

Irrigation comes in, but at the same time there is a need for drainage also. There we do not bother about it. We go on asking for more and more of irrigation channels and irrigation projects. Therefore, drainage and irrigation have got to be taken together simultaneously so that whenever we start any kind of an irrigation scheme, we should also think as to how this surplus water from it would be channeled in a constructive manner so that lower down other areas would not be damaged.

Thirdly, whenever we have irrigation as in Punjab for instance, there is a surplus of water. The earth is destroyed and irrigation in course of time gets damaged because of submersion. Production is affected. Now silting has got to be salvaged. That aspect of it has not been given sufficient importance. Unfortunately, our friends here in Punjab have not realised it and therefore they grudge the flow of water right down to Rajasthan and hence this dispute we are getting.

Now just at this stage Sir, I think it is high time the Irrigation Minister, the Prime Minister here and all the Irrigation Ministers all over India will have to get together not once but a number of times, put their heads together, and work out a political assortment of responsibility and rights in regard to the use of waters.

Now, in the past it has been made an major State Subject, that is, irrigation. And Centre was given only regulatory responsibility. Now, we are seeing how it is becoming more and more necessary, in view of the rise of this parochialism and sentiment of State loyalties all over India. How it has become so very necessary that the Central Government should be given the primary responsibility as to how these irrigation possibilities, irrigation facilities, irrigation developmental responsibilities should be apportioned between the States and the Centre? The Centre should be given the primary responsibility, and the States the subsidiary responsibility. Otherwise things would become impossible. I sincerely hope that the Sarkaria Commission would be able to give serious thought to this aspect of it, and the Central statesmanship

also should rise to be big enough, with the cooperation of the States, in order to see that these disputes do not arise so frequently; and when they arise, they are not kept hanging fire for years and years, and in that way, spoil the feelings among our people, and between one State and another.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing in the House the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. It is generally said that water is a gift of God; then why are there disputes about water. Water is essential for agriculture as well as for human beings. Without it no work can be carried out. If we want to make the country prosperous we must provide job to everyone and water to every field. It is the policy of the Government which can make it possible. But even after 38 years of independence we have not been able to provide jobs to everyone. We are unable to provide job to everyone. The problem of unemployment is beyond our control. The result is that the extremists are creating law and order problem whether it is south, north or other places. The Government should, therefore, take steps to provide jobs to everyone and water to every field.

Now we have become self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains after 38 years of independence but we have not been able to provide water to every field. This situation is prevailing in Rajasthan, Rayalseema, Telengana and in other places. At some places water is in excess and at other water is deficient. We cannot control excess water but we can at least supply it to places where there is no water or where there is drought. We can provide water to every field but in spite of having adequate water resources, we are unable to make use of them due to disputes between the Central Government and the State Governments. Due to the dispute between the Central Government and the State Government, by the time a project is cleared by the Central Government, its cost escalates three times. It increases manifold. Due to the paucity

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

of resources we are not in a position to provide water to every field even by the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Drinking water is not available in every village. There is no water for fields as well as for cattle. It rains in Uttar Pradesh but floods occur in Bihar. Shri K.L. Rao has stated in his report as to how to utilize the flood waters. The Ganga water can be taken to Cauvery river. It is an ambitious project but we cannot complete it. The people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh suffer hardships due to floods and every year damage worth crores of rupees occurs due to floods. The people living around the basin of Cauvery of Ganga and Krishna river are facing hardships due to non-availability of water for irrigation. The engineers have submitted their report regarding diverting water to that area. We can make our best efforts in this respect. It is possible that we may require more funds for this purpose. In every session of Parliament we discuss about combating the drought and the flood problem. We require funds for combating drought as well as floods. We can divert water from the flood prone area to the drought prone area and in this way we can prevent drought as well as floods and provide water to the fields. By doing this we can kill two birds with one stone. But even after 38 years of independence we have not been able to undertake this work. We have failed to complete the Ganga-Cauvery project. This is the reason that we have to spend crores of rupees to tackle the flood and the drought problem. I would like that the scheme for linking the Ganga-Cauvery rivers by a canal should be implemented speedily.

Now I shall raise some points regarding Andhra Pradesh. The Krishna and the Godavari are the two big rivers in our state but the Telengana and the Rayalseema regions are completely dry areas. The drinking water is not available even at a depth of 100 to 200 ft. Some method should be devised to lift the water. As per the verdict of the Bachawat Commission, work on the Telugu Ganga Project is going on. But this has been made into an issue between Karnataka and Maharashtra. The hon. Irrigation Minister must give his comments on it. I would like to say that Andhra Pradesh is doing the right thing.

I would like to request the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to plead before the Bench and the Central Government should give clearance to the project immediately as per the verdict of the Bachawat Commission. Had the work on the Telugu Ganga project been taken up against the verdict of the Bachawat Commission, Shrimati Indira Gandhi would not have laid its foundation stone and Shri Ram Krishna Hegade, who was present at that time, would have opposed her inaugural address which she delivered at that time. Why has this issue been raised one or two years after the work was started. The issue raised by the Karnataka Government and the Maharashtra Government is not justified. Inter state disputes are neither good for the Centre nor for the country. It is also not proper that the Centre does not intervene in the dispute between the two states. This situation should be rectified as early as possible.

The Karnataka Government has been demanding abolition of the Tungbhadra Board. It is not proper. Tungbhadra Project supplies water to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States for irrigation. The Board has been constituted to regulate the utilization of water. If a dispute arises between the States, it will not be good. The Central Government should not agree to the demand for abolition of Tungbhadra Board. The Government should take a decision on the issue of utilization of waters of major rivers at national level. Their water should be treated as national waters. The major rivers like the Godavari, the Ganga and the Cauvery should be declared as major rivers and their waters should be distributed at national level. The Central Government should undertake construction of dams on these rivers and should not down the responsibility on the plea that it is not a union subject. The Centre should make arrangement of irrigation by the constructing dams. When two states are at loggerheads on the issue of sharing of water, proper utilisation of water does not take place for irrigation and it is the farmer who suffers due to this. A policy should be drawn to ensure proper utilisation of the waters of the national rivers. I want to submit one thing about the Shriram Sagar Project. 200 TMC feet of water is available there. Therefore, they want to utilise that water. They have utilised 75 TMC feet water and with

additional 75 TMC feet water, it will become 150 TMC water. We are preparing a plan accordingly. The Government raised some queries about it. Then the matter was reconsidered and the quantum reached 215 and on even another reconsideration it was fixed at 171 TMC. Due to fixing the quantum at 171 TMC, in the second phase Warangal, Telangana, Nalgonda and Suryapet are reeling under severe drought. There has not been drinking water in those areas for the last 10 to 20 years. When we go to the villages, people rush to beat us.

[English]

You have already allowed upto 285 Km. of Kakateeya Canal. Enough water is available even after that. You may check up the matter, In Godavari 2,000 TMC ft. of water is available.

[Translation]

The project has unnecessarily been lying with the Central Government for clearance since 1983. A period of 3 years has since passed. The Government takes so much time and causes harass much in this way.

Then, in Godavari 2000 TMC feet of water is available. Submergible areas fall in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Neither Madhya Pradesh nor Maharashtra have any objection and their Chief Minister signed the agreement. That is pending with the Central Government. It is not being cleared. In this way 2000 TMC feet of water is flowing into the sea.

There are Eachampalli Project and Polavaram Project. From Polavaram Project water is supplied to the Vishakhapatnam Steel Factory. But for that also clearance is delayed. That is not meant only for Andhra Pradesh.

In reply to a question on 13 September, 1985 in the Parliament, it was mentioned...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : For

Medium irrigation and minor irrigation schemes, enough water is available.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : One minute, more please.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you going on speaking? Instead of three minutes you have taken eleven minutes. I have warned you before this. I have cautioned. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are wasting your time. Nothing will go on record. Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik. Your speech will not go no record. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources.

As sufficient time has not been allotted, I would like to give a few suggestions only. You are all aware that on the one hand due to shortage of water we face drought and on the other hand, 60 per cent of our rain water flows into the Bay of Bengal and get mixed with the saline water of the sea. In this connection I want to submit that our Government should construct reservoirs to utilise that water. These should be constructed at a distance of 50 to 100 miles from each other. That water should not be allowed to flow into the Bay of Bengal and should be stored for irrigation of the fields so that drought which is caused due to shortage of water is avoided and we may make progress in agriculture by utilising it.

Secondly, we can utilise the sea water also. In countries like Israel, water is purified by de-salination process and is utilised for drinking and irrigation purposes. This process resembles the function of kidney which purifies blood. Water is purified with a similar process. You can extract minerals from it and can also utilise water at the same time. I want to submit

[Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik]

that if we can utilise properly the water available with us, we can irrigate 20 per cent more land. We have many canals, tributaries, and their branches. If the sides of these canals, tributaries etc. are lined, we can prevent the seepage of water and also save it from going waste. Similarly, drains, canals and distributaries too should be lined with bricks. We can save 20 per cent water in this way, which will go a long way in benefiting the farmers. I also want to submit that water table should be between 5 feet to 15 feet., which is essential for raising good crops. In many places we see that water table falls due to augmentation of water resources through tubewells. In many places which have perennial canals and which are flood prone, the water table rises very high. Therefore, schemes should be formulated to keep the water table between 5 feet to 15 feet and it should be ensured that every field gets water properly. There is no dearth of water resources in our country but they should be properly harnessed and we should prepare plans properly to utilise water. I come from Haryana. There the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Project has been under dispute for quite a long time. In this connection I would like to submit to you to look at the situation in Punjab. Floods occur there quite frequently and they are not in need of water. Water Table has risen to a depth of two to three feet. If that water is not utilised properly, the land may be damaged. If that water is given to Haryana, or if only Haryana's share of water is given to it, the farmers of Haryana will become prosperous. If the farmers prosper, the entire country will prosper and progress.

One thing more. There exist many inter-State water disputes. As I have already stated, water is a national property; it is not the exclusive property of any State. At present, irrigation is a State subject. I am of the view that if you want to solve the problem of water, then it should be made a union subject and it should exercise administrative control over big canals because there are canals which pass from one State to another and thus create inter-State disputes. A Canal Police Force should be formed for this purpose. It should look after this aspect. In 1985, Bhakhra Dam was breached twice with the result that Haryana did not get water in certain places and fields in Punjab

were inundated causing large scale damage. Rajasthan also suffered because of this. Had that water been supplied properly instead of the canal getting breached, Haryana and Rajasthan would not have suffered losses. Besides, there are many such rivers whose water goes waste. Not only that water is not properly utilised, it causes floods also. Rivers flowing in Haryana are generally known as rainy drains. For example, Sahibi, Ghaghar, Drain No. 8, Saraswati, Nazafgarh Drain and Yamuna river. If their water is properly utilised and a grid system is enforced and after that water is made available through lift irrigation, I think the needs of Haryana, Rajasthan and other parts of Northern India can be met from the water of these drains alone which I have mentioned. I would also like to submit that there is a village named Bhambeva in my constituency Sonapat where five hundred acres of land has not been tilled for the last 40 years. People have started 'Fisheries' there. That land belongs to individual owners. Reservoirs can be constructed at such a land and rain water can be stored there and supplied further. In Haryana underground water is not potable. That affects people's health. All the municipalities should be asked to take necessary steps because the population has increased and people are not getting water in a proper way. With these words I support the Demands.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,.....
(Interruptions)-

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only five minutes for you.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: No, Sir. Five minutes will be a very little time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All will get five minutes. No differentiation. Now we have achieved socialism. All are equal.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that I cannot support this budget because in this budget you have totally neglected the West Bengal and the eastern India.

I would like to start with Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission. You have had

so many meetings with Bangladesh and the latest meetings were held in Dhaka in June 1985 and in New Delhi in November 1985. But what is the outcome of these meetings ! It is :

- (a) to work out a long-term scheme or schemes for the augmentation of the flows of the Ganga at Farakka; and
- (b) to identify alternatives for the sharing of the available river water resources common to both countries for mutual benefit.

15.12 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

This shows that you have fallen prey to the delaying tactic of Bangladesh, and also it is a fact that you have a good dinner, you have a good lunch, you have good drinks and you come back, but the people of West Bengal are going to be dry. It is a hard fact. Farakka is dry, Bhagirathi is dry, Ganga is dry, Tista is dry, North Bengal is dry. the entire West Bengal is going to be dry.

Calcutta Port is the life-line of the Calcutta city and Calcutta city is the heart not only of West Bengal but of the entire eastern India. It was necessary to immediately provide 40,000 cusecs of water in the lean months. But how much water are you given can you tell me ? Ganga flows through U.P., Bihar and West Bengal, and then it goes to Bangladesh. But may I know whether it is not a national river ? What is the position of Ganga at present ? In U.P., Ganga is a river; when it goes to Bihar, it becomes a rivulet, that is, a tributary of a river, nothing but a canal; and when it goes to West Bengal, it becomes nothing but a drain. This is the condition. You may have sharing of the water with Bangladesh, so many talks, so many dialogues you may have with them, but it is a hard fact that you do not like to share the water of the Ganges among the different States, namely, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. You have got the Flood Control Commission in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal, but why not a Commission for the distribution of waters of Ganges between these three States ? My concrete suggestion is, immediately what is necessary is to

distribute this Ganges water properly. Let there be a Commission for this comprising U.P., Bihar and West Bengal.

Sir, let me come to the river Teesta. (*Interruptions*). It is in the Joint River Commission report. I think the hon. Minister has gone through it.

SHRI D.P. YADAVA (Monghyr) : He did not read it.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Then I am sorry for that.

Sir, the river Teesta is the only dependable source of water for the agricultural development in the backward areas of North Bengal districts. Teesta barrage work was taken up in the year 1976. But you should not be happy for that. It was just an inauguration ceremony at a place in Malda, I think, by the then Chief Minister, now the Governor of Punjab—I do not like to name him. After that, after 1977 when the Left Front came to power they started the work. Nobody can deny it. (*Interruptions*). You just go through the record and you will find it.

It is a fact that since 1947 onwards the then Government did not take up a single irrigation project for this backward area of North Bengal. During the period from 1947 to 1977, not a single project was taken up by the then State Government of West Bengal. How this part of the country was neglected ? (*Interruptions*).

There was a Mansingh Committee's report on flood protection and irrigation in 1968. It mentioned about this Master Plan Project of Teesta River with Dam at upper region Geokhali and a barrage at Afalchand Forest. It is only when Bangladesh also took a project on the same river Teesta just down to Indo-Bangladesh border, you took up this Project work. But yet the progress of this project is very slow due to the paucity of funds of the West Bengal State. On the other hand, with the help of the World Bank the progress of work on the Bangladesh Project has gone on speedily. If once Bangladesh Barrage project on Teesta is completed, then what would happen ? The entire North Bengal, a part of Assam and Sikkim will be inundated. (*Interruptions*). You have not been able to

[Shri Amar Roypradhan]

distribute the Teesta water, but you have done the second part of it.

You have an ad hoc agreement with Bangladesh regarding sharing of Teesta water according to which 36 per cent water would go to Bangladesh, 39 per cent to India and 25 per cent would be allocated after detailed studies. What do you mean by 'detailed studies'? There is no water even now in the canal, but you have only distributed or allocated. The demand of the local people, the demand of West Bengal is : Let there be 80 per cent of the water, let it be distributed in the North Bengal districts. Otherwise it will be no use constructing a Rs. 500 crore Barrage Project on Teesta.

Now, let us come to the financial matter. The Working Group of the Planning Commission had recommended an allocation of Rs. 221 crores in the Seventh Plan period so that it may be completed within 1990.

The West Bengal Government has already spent 70 per cent of Annual Budget of irrigation for this project. You will be as tonished to learn that the State Government can at best provide Rs. 150 crores in the Seventh Plan. Where from the rest of the money will come? Therefore, the Centre must come forward to give help and assistance. You have assured Rs. 19.5 crores during the year 1984-85. You did not pay a single pie for that project. During 1985-86, you assured Rs. 18 crores. How much money did you give till now? Can you tell me? Nil.

Now, you have approved the Teesta Barrage Left Bank canal. But you did not allot a single rupee for that purpose. How will it be done? It is the general law of the land that wherever from the river goes, those areas should get water first. In this case, you have taken away water wherefrom Teesta flows. You have denied Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar, these three districts water. In your proposal of 1976, you have said, let Malda district get water first. Now, of course, you agreed. I thank you for that. Let Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar also get water first. But you did not allot a single rupee for that purpose.

Regarding Teesta and Brahmaputra project, it is long pending. The survey was made long back in 1954. But you did not give any thought to it. I would request the hon. Minister that let there be a new thought to this irrigation project and flood control project. Let there be a canal in between Brahmaputra and Teesta via Goalpara district and the North Bengal area. Let it flow up to Ganga and let there it be a project of Brahmaputra, Teesta and Ganga.

Regarding Subernarekha project, how long will you neglect it? It is lying with you for the last 4 years. You did not approve it. So, under these circumstances, how can I support this Budget? I am sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Irrigation Ministry for the year 1986-87. India is predominantly an agricultural country where three fourth of the population depends on agriculture. Every year the Government makes efforts to provide irrigation facilities. In our country generally we put more stress on natural resources for irrigation but in my opinion so far we have not been able to irrigate fully with the help of natural resources.

The report of the Water Resource Department for the year 1986-87 contains details about the expenditure incurred and proposed to be incurred on irrigation in the various Five Year Plans and the acreage of the land brought under irrigation and the time taken to provide these facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Government has all along been endeavouring to bring more and more areas under irrigation so as to boost our agricultural production. In this regard, I will request that we should take steps to control floods and droughts in the country. Long embankments and drains have been constructed for this purpose.

Delhi is supplied water from Dhansa dam in Haryana. If we could store this water there itself, it could be utilised for irrigation and also for controlling the floods.

The sewage of Delhi is discharged into the Yamuna river through the nullahs which pollutes its water. We must take effective steps to stop the discharge of sewage into Yamuna. We must divert this sewage to the fields for agricultural purposes which may increase our production.

Sir, previously water was available in Delhi in abundance for irrigation but at present even enough drinking water is not available. The population of Delhi is increasing. As a result of which there is insufficient water for irrigation.

Our Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had nationalised the banks. These banks helped the farmers to instal tubewells in large number which helped in increasing the production. But we want that the water from the areas, which receive surplus water during the rainy season, should be supplied with the help of machines to those areas where water is not available.

Now I come to the floods. Heavy rainfall in certain areas causes floods. I read news items about floods in Bihar which is a general phenomenon there. We must mobilise resources in advance to meet the flood threat as it involves immense expenditure. When there were floods in Haryana some time back the level of hundreds of villages was raised thus saving them from floods. I want some extra drains and embankments should be constructed in the areas where the floods are a recurring feature in order to save the crops and the animals. The crops are often destroyed by floods. The farmer works hard throughout the year but he is denied the benefit thereof due to floods. The poor people of that area who totally depend on crops, have to face starvation, they become weak and are unable to get any other employment. Tubewells energised by power. I want to tell the hon. Minister that tubewells should be installed to the maximum extent for the purposes of irrigation. But for this purpose it is essential that power in sufficient quantity is made available for these tubewells by setting up more thermal power stations.

I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Sir, I support the Demands of the Ministry of Water Resources. I hold the view that the agricultural productions which are going to the extent of self-sufficiency in India are due to the irrigational facilities and irrigation potentialities developed by the Government of India. By the way, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Water Resources to the pros and cons of Kosi project, one of the most important projects in India.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the year, 1954, was very much moved by the devastation and damages caused by the Kosi river. You are aware that Kosi river has been called the Sorrow of Bihar, and in that way Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru decided that one project could be completed and this project Kosi was made of one barrage and two embankments. This barrage is situated one km. ahead of Indian territory in Nepal territory. This is a very good project. But it has developed certain difficulties which are going to damage the very life of the people living in that area. One such problem is that of silting. Silting is so huge that the river-bed in between the two embankments are getting higher than the area outside the embankment and on that account the embankment is getting much pressure and a year before last, there was a breach in the eastern embankment that led to great devastation and damages in 5 blocks. So, this problem of silting is causing nuisance for the people of that area. I would like to say that it should draw the attention of the Government and see that silting problem is solved.

Another point I have to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that water resources in the area from which I come in very rich. You will appreciate that only at the depth of 20 to 30 ft. water is available. If the tubewell system or pump-sets are made available to the farmers, then the farmers can very well avail of the water at the lower level and we can well imagine that water sources can be utilised by the farmers.

One more point I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. Pump-sets

[Shri Mahabir Prasad Yadav]

are given to the persons who are having no land. Such pump-sets given by the Government to the persons having no land are sold in the market. By this way, Government is investing so much money. On the contrary persons who have got land, they are not getting pump-sets. It is rather very incongruous in that way that the pump-sets are not given to the land-owning class but it is being given to the persons having no land.

Further I would like to say that the Kosi project is a very important project in that area. This project is not being looked after very nicely. The Central Government is not taking due notice of the difficulty of the farmers. I thank Prof. Ranga who had already made a reference to the Kosi project by drawing attention of the hon. Minister and I hope that the hon. Minister will take due notice of this Kosi project in the interest of the nation and in the interest of the public. Professor Ranga had already suggested that it should be the primary responsibility of the Central Government to look after the Central projects and it should be the secondary responsibility of the State Governments to take care of such projects.

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the very beginning I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some of the discrepancies in the Annual Report and the Performance Budget Report, which have been supplied to us. The discrepancy, according to me, is important from the point of view of the approach of the Department to the whole question. It is about the potential created that is likely to be greater in 1985-86. In the Annual Report on page 11 it has been stated that the potential that would be created in 1985-86 will be 0.7 million hectares, that means, 7 lakh hectares. But in the Performance Budget it has been stated that it will be 0.6 million hectares, that means, 6 lakh hectares. This makes a difference of one lakh. This difference of one lakh is not very important so far as the whole country is concerned. But I am only pointing out the discrepancy that exists in those two publications which have been supplied to us simultaneously. If discrepancy goes on like this, then we cannot know what

is actually happening all over the country, whether the information which has been supplied to us should be relied upon or not. It is from this point of view that I have mentioned this discrepancy.

The whole magnitude of the question about irrigation is very large. It has been stated that in India rivers carry 1440 million acres feet of water out of which about 80 per cent flow into the sea during the monsoon. That means, in the four months of monsoon the rain which falls in our country and which flows into the sea is not utilised. It has been stated that at the most 20 per cent is being utilised for irrigation purposes. It is nowhere estimated to what extent the water which flows into the sea and which is wasted would be ultimately used for irrigation purposes. It has been stated that the potential that is to be created by surface water as well as ground-level water is to the extent of 113 million hectares of land. But nowhere has it been stated as to what quantity of water which is now going into the sea and which is being wasted will be utilised. A very serious thought is not being given to this problem. This must be looked into.

In Maharashtra the Bharve Commission was appointed to examine the potential that is likely to be created in Maharashtra and the Commission has submitted its report. Konkan is one of the parts of Maharashtra and it is very narrow and is adjoining to the sea. It has been stated in the Commission's report that there is no possibility of having any sort of irrigation in the Konkan area. But now we find that in the Konkan area not only minor and medium irrigation projects but even major irrigation projects can be taken up and are being taken up. It is in this context that I would like the hon. Minister to examine the point about utilising to the maximum the water which flows into the sea and which is being wasted. Maximum utilisation should be made wherever water is available in the country. It has already been impressed that this should be done, but I find that it is not being done.

So far as the present position is concerned, out of about 246 major projects, only 68 projects have been completed and about 178 to 181 projects are spill-over from the First

Plan to the Seventh Plan. No information has been given to us as to how many major projects have spilled over from the First Plan, from the Second Plan, from the Third Plan, from the Fourth Plan, from the Fifth Plan and from the Sixth Plan, to the Seventh Plan. If that information had been given, then we would have been in a position to know how long it took for the various projects to be completed. According to my information, projects which had been taken up even in the Third Plan have not so far been completed; that means, even after a lapse of about 20 years, the projects have not been completed. I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the gestation period that is to be taken into consideration, what is the maximum period in which a major project is supposed to be completed. If it takes 20 to 25 years for a major project to be completed, then it is no use saying, "We are going to make use of the water to the maximum possible extent". It is simply paying only lip service to the cause and misleading the people and misleading the nation. The spill-over cost has gone to the extent of Rs. 24,800 crores only because care has not been taken to complete the project in due time.

The potential created till now is to the extent of 30.5 million hectares. Out of this only 25.3 million hectares are being used. That means 5.2 million hectares of land to which water ought to have been given, could have been given, is not being given. This is not a small quantity of land. Added to this, the land which has become saline and not being used for cultivation because of water logging is to the extent of 3.4 million hectares. That means at present because of bad planning nearly 8.6 million hectares of land is not being used. This is a huge loss to the nation.

Crores of rupees which have been invested are being wasted because the water which ought to have been made available for different kinds of productions is not being used. Moreover, because of water logging 3.4 million hectares of land has gone waste. That means that land cannot be used for production. The water which is there is being mis-used. The water logging has resulted in salinity in land and because of the salinity in land, nothing can be produced in that land, I would ask the Govern-

ment and the Minister as to who is responsible for these things.

I will refer to the last point. I have mentioned that a long period has been taken to complete this project. One of the causes is that the land which is likely to be submerged is not being taken possession in proper period. That is only because the land which is submerged is taken from the agriculturists without rehabilitating them. If they are not rehabilitated they are not able to handover the possession of the land. So, I would request and suggest that the cost of rehabilitation of the agriculturists who are being displaced because of this project, should be included in the cost of the project itself, so that those agriculturists who are likely to lose their means of livelihood would not be opposed to give the land for the project.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the drought prone areas. No specific importance has been given as far as this department is concerned. I am aware that it falls within the purview and the jurisdiction of the State Governments. I know that in the Annual Report a reference has been made that so far as the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe and other backward classes are concerned, the Department takes care to see that in the areas where the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people are living, they look into it so far as the irrigation projects are concerned. Till now it seems no proper attention has been given to the drought prone areas by the Department. It has been mentioned in the report also. At Page-47 it has been stated :

"The Bench-mark studies of socio-economic condition of the people in drought prone areas of M.P., Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh entrusted to various institutes were completed. Similar studies for Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, U.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal were in different stages of progress with various institutes."

If socio-economics conditions are being examined by the Department I would like to ask why no specific interest is taken by this Department to see that irrigation

[Shri D.B. Patil]

facilities are made available to the drought prone areas.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Water Resources. In this context I would like to mention the opinion expressed by some of the members of the TDP about Telugu Ganga. In fact, no Congress leader has expressed any doubts about our right to secure our due share from the Krishna water as per the Buchawat award. The State leaders of TDP have been making provocative speeches and may be to cover up their lack of budget allocation for this project. So they want to blame the Central Government on political lines. In case if it were to be true that Government of India is responsible for doing so I cannot understand the reason of another Opposition party ruled Karnataka State making a dispute over the award. So, it is not that the Government of India or any other Government is responsible for this. In a democratic set-up it is the duty and responsibility of every State leader to sort out their problems by sitting across the table. The ego of one individual should not come in the way of sorting out the problems amicably even though there is difference of opinion either in interpretation or in understanding the award which has been given.

I wish in this context the Government of India particularly the Irrigation Minister must take the initiative and see that this problem is sorted out and the people of Andhra do not suffer because of the ego of some of the people there.

Sir, this issue was not there earlier. It has arisen only because of the extensive publicity given by the State Government which must have been the cause for creating suspicion in the minds of the people of other States which led to this controversy. I request the Minister to bring all the Chief Ministers across the table and sort out the issue or go ahead with the constitution of another tribunal to sort out the issue at the earliest possible time so that the benefits of this project get accrued to the people there.

Coming to the Krishna Delta system which is more than 100 years old if only

an amount of Rs. 200 crores were to be spent over this from the Central Government or State Government resources about Rs. 100 crores worth of produce can be secured every year. So instead of investing thousands of crores on new projects which may be unremunerative or expensive it is better to consolidate, modernise and complete the existing and on-going projects. That will give better results both to the farming community and the nation.

Sir, 9 lakh acres of land under cultivation in Krishna district is suffering for want of improvement in drainage system, field channels, branch channels, etc. If it is attended to it will improve the per acre yield and thus improve the income of the State as well as the nation. Similarly there is Etimondi-Chinagollapalam village in my constituency on the sea-shore where 600 acres of land has been eroded. The value of it is around Rs. 3 crores. The entire village is raising coconut trees and the income of this is about Rs. 1 crore per year. Marginal farmers have lost their land totally. As there is already a scheme for containing the sea erosion. I request the Minister kindly to send a team and find out the remedy and propose a project and save the farming community. Sir, as already mentioned in the report, emphasis should be laid more on the completion of on-going projects because the delay in the projects is causing unimaginable loss, not because of escalation cost but also because of loss of dividends that could have accrued to the farmers early. This will work out to a few hundreds of percentage excess over the original estimated cost leading to inflation. So, Sir, instead of going in for new projects on political grounds, the existing projects should be concentrated and completed early. The importance of time must also be in the minds of people who are connected with the projects. We have enough number of engineers and also competent and knowledgeable people in these fields. But they are going to foreign countries and are bringing laurels in constructing the projects there in time. But at the same time, it is not done in India because the emphasis is not being laid on the timely completion of the projects. If only the emphasis is laid on timely completion of the projects making specific provisions of heavy penalties for the delays, I am certain that the projects will be completed in time and the results can

also be achieved very early at lesser cost.

Some of the reasons for the delays are : wrong planning, inadequate and delayed supplies of inputs like steel and cement and delay in land acquisition for the projects, delays in the clearances of the forest lands. When these projects are meant for improving the income of the people as well as the nation, I do not understand the wisdom or the rationality of other agencies in delaying these projects on flimsy grounds like some lands belonging to the Forest Department or some land not being acquired for some small reasons. I wish that emphasis must also be laid on avoidance of red-tapism, giving timely decisions leading to early completion of the projects which automatically improves efficiency and reduces the cost of these projects.

In the report, it is stated that the investment on major irrigation is Rs. 12,000 per acre whereas for minor irrigation, it is Rs. 2250. For example, in regard to the major projects, the entire subsidy is borne by the Government whereas when it comes to the development of ground water resources, the poor farmer is made to pay back the investment along with the interest. As the burden on the exchequer is much less and it is only an investment repayable by the beneficiaries, the Government should think in terms of allocating more and more funds as loans or as grants and subsidies to the marginal farmers.

Sir, irrigation, drainage, flood and drought control must be planned and executed simultaneously, not individually. This will give better results in developing lands through ground water. Sir, with the allocation for the command area development including training to the farming community and field staff for better water management, the farming community of the country will get enough enlightenment to learn the modern methods of production if only the Government were to provide all the facilities and necessary training.

Sir, the stress on regional grids, if not the national grids, of water must be laid by the Government of India so that at least one or two or three States can come forward both for improving the existing

water resources as well as their own resources. I wish the Government of India concentrate more on the present projects rather than going in for new projects to get better dividends early. With these words, I support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Water Resources.

SHRI SARAT DEB (Kendrapara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands of the Ministry of Water Resources.

While speaking on this subject, I do not know whether I should blame the Minister concerned, because to some extent I was myself involved in the Irrigation Department in Orissa. What I had then found was that from the very beginning the planning process for irrigation was purely defective and the persons involved in planning neglected it.

If you see the allocation of funds during the first five Five Year Plans, it comes to Rs. 5444 crores. Though late, during the 6th Plan, the Government realised that Irrigation had a lot a importance and they increased the allocation of funds to Rs. 12160 crores. But even then I will say that it was not properly planned because according to the Survey Report that has been given to us, though 68 million hectares irrigation potential has been created, 7.50 million hectare irrigation potential could not be utilised. I want to know where that water will go and will it create water lagging or not ?

I have carefully followed the entire discussions in the House today. If I correctly remember that if you go through the six volumes of the report of the Commission on Irrigation, almost all aspect of what has been discussed here are there. If it is purely left to the technical persons without any political interference, I am sure, a lot of water disputes can be solved. When the engineers give their ideas and chalk out their plans—I am not referring to any individual or political parties—everyone tries to pull the strings to get the benefit and that is where it goes wrong. The Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 14000 crores in the 7th Plan for irrigation, but what the hon. Minister said in this

[Shri Sharat Deb]

House was last year's Budget reply that the spillover projects of the last 6th Five Year Plan would cost Rs. 26000 crores. I am to understand that those projects costing Rs. 26000 crores would be given priority.

I come from Orissa where a lot of water resources are there. But unfortunately, these have not been properly utilised. As far as irrigation is concerned, particularly in the tribal areas, where the Prime Minister wants more stress to be laid, there is a very big barrier and that is clearance of the Forest Department. In most of the tribal areas if you try to bring an irrigation project, you will come across the problem of clearance of the Forest Department and for that some projects have been lying pending for a very long time. I want that the Government must formulate a clear policy in order to overcome this difficulty.

Now, I come to the flood control. Last year when the hon. Minister was making a speech, I was very happy to note that he had realised that the flood control was a subject which should not be left only to the States, it should also be dealt with by the Centre. We were very happy; we thought that probably this year the Centre was going to do something positive for flood controls, but to your utmost surprise, what the report says is that instead of giving any money, they are only going to give warning to the people before the floods so that they can protect themselves. I do not understand how you are going to protect the people by warnings only. By warnings, the people may go to high altitudes, but what about their crops, their houses, their cattle etc. How are they going to say them? The flood control is a subject matter which by itself needs a special discussion. Flood control cannot be dealt with surely by building embankments; it requires dredging of the river mouths. Most of the river mouths are blocked with silt deposits and for that particularly in Orissa floods are creating havoc.

16.00 hrs.

As far as the grants for floods are concerned, though the Central Government is not making sufficient provision for flood

control still then you will be surprised just to see how the money that has been granted, is being spent by the State. I want to read out certain figures. During 1980-85, Orissa alone has received about Rs. 339.55 crores. This year itself, for Orissa you have provided Rs. 35 crores as FDR. But what is happening to that money? That is what I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. And I want him to take some firm action on this. You will be surprised to know that out of this Rs. 35 crores, 10 crores of rupees were earmarked for irrigation. But what has happened? The hon. Chief Minister has taken Rs. 22 crores to his own constituency, where there is no river and hence no question of flood. The hon. Finance Minister of the State has taken Rs. 55 lakhs where there is no flood or any such thing. And for Ganjam district, which is a highly flood affected area, out of Rs. 15 lakhs that were earmarked, only Rs. 75,000 has been given. Not only that. You will be surprised to know that very recently in the Orissa Assembly a letter has been laid on the Table of the House.

16.01 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

The Chief Engineer had written that out of the FDR grant, which is purely Centre's money, TV sets for the Department of Irrigation have been bought! I would like the hon. Minister to find out whether it is true or not from Orissa Speaker.

Secondly, I would like to bring some other aspects to your kind notice. Recently, three or four days ago, six to seven executive engineers' houses in different parts of Orissa have been raided and you will be surprised to know that the money that has been recovered is to the tune of some crores of rupees. My hon. friend Shri Panigrahi who was speaking, was saying that he would like to have some more funds for his area. In his constituency, under his Division which comes under the Prachi Division, the executive engineer's house was raided and about Rs. 4 lakhs of currency notes were seized and about Rs. 5 lakhs of currency notices were thrown into the drain which the Vigilance Department has recovered and taken up a case in this regard very recently. Therefore, I want to bring to the notice of

the hon. Minister that whatever money is being given as FDR, you should see that it is spent for flood control only and not for any thing else.

Lastly, I want to bring out certain problems that we are facing in Orissa regarding irrigation facilities. All the irrigation facilities in Orissa are almost very old and outdated. Mainly, the defect lies in this and a lot of water is being wasted because the gates that have been provided in the canals are much higher. Also, gradually because of silting of the canals sufficient water is not going to the fields.

Though there are command area development programmes, it is said that some of the hon. members oppose them. But I very much welcome such a programme. Wherever there is Inter-state water dispute, the command area development programme could not work. But at least in a State like Orissa where there is no inter-water dispute, I cannot understand why this programme cannot be implemented in full swing. When it was doing so well, I do not understand why it has come to standstill.

Similarly, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that there are so many projects in Orissa. Last year, the hon. Prime Minister visited Kalahandi District, which is a chronically drought affected area in Orissa. The main reason why it is drought affect is because of the river Jonk. Until and unless the Upper Jonk Project comes up, nothing can help the people there. Just supplying them some relief measures will not solve their problem. Anyway, I am thankful to the Central Government for having cleared the project now.

Now, I want to come to the Hirakund Dam. There are a lot of dams which are very old. The hon. Minister must be knowing that most of the dams do not have the de-silting gates, in the dams and because of this reason, silting of the reservoirs is taking place and it is taking place quite fast too. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that an Expert Committee should inquire into it. Now I am coming to the most dangerous aspect of it. In the Hirakud Dam, cracks have started appearing. And such type of cracks, though, it was referred

to the Puna Institute, though they said that there is no immediate danger, but the amount of silting that is taking place in the Hirakud Reservoir is definitely alarming for the cracks. Though Hirakud Dam was constructed long back, but till now Mahanadi Master Plan has not been completed because of which the entire area downwards is being devastated by floods.

Lastly, I want to just mention one point regarding Rengali Dam. Though the Central Government has now said that they are provided some money for the flood control, but I want to remind the Minister that Rengali is a multi-purpose Dam and in multi-purpose Dam what is happening is only we look to the irrigation portion of it and generation portion of it. But when it comes to the flood portion, we are neglecting it.

Similarly, what has happened at Rangali Dam, you know Sir. Though the Dam is completed, but the Brahmani Master Plan till now is not completed and until and unless Brahmani Master Plan is completed along with it, the people of Orissa and the people of Brahmani basin will face the same trouble and same fatei what the Mahanadi basin people are facing. Therefore, Sir, at last, I would like to request the hon. Minister to go into the allegations that I have made regarding Orissa regarding non-utilisation of FDR fund that has been given to Orissa.

With these words, I thank you.

SHRI R.S. MANE (Ichalkaranji) :
Sir, I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. Sir, as far as Water Resources are concerned, in India, there are lot of major, medium and minor irrigation projects. In my State of Maharashtra, about 30 per cent of water can be stored by various irrigation projects, but at present only 13 per cent or 15 per cent of water is stored by various projects already undertaken by the Government of Maharashtra, as well as by the Government of India.

As far as my district is concerned—particularly my constituency—Sir, Kalamavadi i.e. Dudhgunga and Warana Projects are the major irrigation projects. These two projects are lingering for years together.

[Shri R.S. Mane]

Out of Rs. 250 crores, which is the estimate of Kalamavadi *i.e.* Dudhgunga Projects, only Rs. 6 crores have so far been spent. The Government of India has not cleared these projects and has not given its administrative approval so far. I know that there are about 15 Directorates in the Water Resources Department of the Central Government and there is no coordination among them. There is no coordination among the State Governments and the Central Government, and without submitting its proposal to the World Bank for loan, these Projects will not be cleared and completed early. This area is a hilly area. People in this area are very poor and they are demanding these projects to be completed as soon as possible.

As far as Warana Project is concerned, it is just nearing completion. But no canals have been constructed so far for want of funds only. I can say Sir, the total irrigation projects in my district—particularly in my constituency—are starving for want of money only. The Government of Maharashtra have given administrative approval to the Kalamavadi Project, but they have given only Rs. 6 crores during the last five to 10 years. So, if this is the progress for completing the irrigation projects in the country, I hope and I fear that there will be no chance of completion. There is no time-bound programme of completion to store the natural water in the country. I may request the hon. Minister for Water Resources to provide sufficient funds to Kalamavadi and Warana. I can not think of agriculture without irrigation. The average rainfall in the country is becoming less and less and water level is going down and down. Without irrigation we cannot think of agriculture and without agriculture we cannot think of life. I would request the hon. Minister to have a time bound programme and to issue a white paper on the irrigation policies. A comprehensive and time bound irrigation projects—major and medium—in the country may be prepared. Silting problem of completed projects are there. For this de-silting work, lakhs and crores of rupees are being spent by Government of India and the State Governments. The voluntary organizations of ex-Servicemen may be utilized for de-silting of the completed projects in the country. That will be a very good economical scheme, in my opinion.

As far as cooperative lift irrigations are concerned, according to Bharve Commission's report, 30% of the water lifted from various rivers is being sent to the rivers once again. This has to be looked into by the Department of Water Resources.

According to the K.G. Commission, 59 TMCs of water is to be stored in the district of Kolhapur, but only 3 TMCs of water have been stored so far and regarding the rest of the water, some projects are spilled over, and some projects have not been taken. This clearly shows that the Water Resources Department is constructing projects very slowly.

In my district, particularly in my constituency, there are a lot of problems with regard to the inter-State projects. The Karnataka Government has not given clearance to the Kadamawadi-Dudhganga project and to the Kolhapur—T. Bandhara project. There are three proposals pending with the Government of Karnataka, and because of the border issue, the Karnataka Government has become adamant in respect of clearing these projects. This is our problem. This may kindly be noted by the hon. Minister. All these projects may be completed by making a time-bound programme. Without these irrigation projects, people will have to suffer hardship in these areas.

As far as minor irrigation is concerned, a sufficient amount has to be allotted for this purpose, because it gives immediate fruits to farmers in the country.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : I commend the functioning and the role of the Central Water Commission regarding the planning and implementation of water schemes at the national level, and giving its engineering and technical suggestions at the State level also.

At the same time, I would like to say that there have been some lapses on the part of the Central Water Commission, and one of the major lapses has occurred in my constituency, which is in Rajasthan. There was the construction of the Masani dam in Rajasthan; and that Masani dam has been constructed by the Government of Haryana.

with the approval of the Central Water Commission. The State Government of Rajasthan was never consulted about it, and the Government of Rajasthan never gave approval for the construction of this project.

From this project which has been constructed over the land of Rajasthan, Rajasthan shall not get a single drop of water. The whole of the land has been vested with the Government of Rajasthan, *i.e.* in my district of Alwar; and my district shall not get a single drop of water from that project. Who has given the consent for this project? Rajasthan Government was not a party for giving consent for the construction of that project. How has the Central Water Commission given permission to carry out this project? This is a project costing more than Rs. 40 crores. Initially, its cost was Rs. 36 crores. Now the cost of the project has gone up to more than Rs. 40 crores. The Government of Haryana, simply for its own benefit, has taken the water of Rajasthan, is spoiling the land of Rajasthan; and it will also cause the submersion of at least 20 villages in the territory of Rajasthan.

I had put a question in the Lok Sabha; and initially, the Minister of Irrigation here replied on the floor of the House saying that no single village of Rajasthan would be submerged in the dam water. But now the Central Water Commission has come to the conclusion that at least 15 villages would be submerged in the dam water. I want to put a direct question to the Minister of Water Resources, as to whose fault it is, who was responsible for that, and what precautionary measures the Central Water Commission has taken, so that the people in those villages may not have the disadvantage of the submersion of their land, their residences and houses; and what steps the Government has taken. May I request him to let me know whether he will hold an enquiry into this matter, *i.e.* as to who was the competent officer who had the authority, who gave permission for the construction of this project?

This Masani Project will ruin the fate of the people of that area, it has incurred the displeasure of that area. Therefore, I put this specific question to the hon. Minister whether he will give me a reply in writing as

to how many villages have been submerged in the dam water and what precautionary measures he is going to take so that these villages may not suffer due to this dam water; and what portion of the water shall be given for irrigation purposes to the villages of Rajasthan State?

Why have these villages not been informed by the Central Water Commission or by the State of Haryana or by the State of Rajasthan that these are the villages which are going to be affected by the dam water? When this dam was constructed, it was constructed under the pretext that this Sahabi River flood which causes flood in Delhi will be checked and water shall be stored here. But this river is flowing continuously there. It has been there since ages; and the flood in Delhi is not being caused by Sahabi River water but it is being caused because the Najafgarh drain has been closed by constructing residential colonies in Delhi. The planning which had been given by your engineers was faulty. The flood in Delhi was not the cause of Sahabi River but because of the Najafgarh *nallah* that has been constructed; and that has been obstructed by constructing residential colonies in Delhi. Will you please look into this matter and see how this wrong has been done to my constituency, Alwar so that the people of that area may not suffer any more? At least, I can give the names of those villages. They are: Lalpur, Akoli, Jamalpur, Jokhas, Kiriwas, Ravrka, Ujoli and other villages. They shall directly come under submersion, and therefore, those people are wandering today, today, they are going from pillar to post and no reply is given to them even by the Government of Rajasthan, Haryana nor by the Centre. Therefore, I want that care should be taken to see that they do not suffer any more.

The Audit Report is there. Will the Minister see to it that there is a compliance of this Audit Report? According to your Department information, this Audit Report has not been looked into and not complied with. This is a very serious lapse on the part of the Department. Will you please look into this aspect also? Thank you.

[Translation]

*SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO (Amalapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, water

[Shri A.J.V.B. Maheswara Rao]

is the previous gift of God to mankind. If harnessed properly, the water resources can contribute immensely to the prosperity of the country. Though we have been independent for forty years, we have failed to make use of the plenty of waters that are available in the country. The present drought situation prevailing all around speaks volumes of the failure of the Government to harness our water resources. Had we succeeded in utilising the water available in the country, perhaps there would not have been either drought or famine in the country today.

Ours is predominantly an agricultural country. Reports say that we can utilise 50% of the water resources available to us. But we are not in a position to utilise all the water available to us. We are utilising only 24% of the available water resources. There are many major projects in the country which are under construction for decades. Many of these major projects were started 2 to 3 decades ago and they are yet to be completed. Sir, if these major projects are completed we can solve the water problem once and for all. There will be plenty of water for irrigation as well as drinking. It is unfortunate to note that instead of helping the States in the early completion of major projects, the Central Government is only trying to create hurdles by injecting politics and thus delaying the construction of projects. So, Sir, I request the Central Government to stop playing politics and help the States in completing the major projects early. Telugu Ganga has not been cleared by the Centre so far. The Central Government is trying to find excuses to delay the clearance. Telugu Ganga, if completed, would provide water to irrigate lakhs of acres of land in the chronically drought prone areas of Rayalaseema besides providing drinking water to Madras which happens to be one of the major cities in the country. But for some strange reasons the Central Government is not clearing this project. The Central Govt. should give up its adamant attitude and clear the project as early as possible.

Sir, the foundation stone was laid for Polavaram project long ago. Not even a brick has been added in all these years. It is a prestigious project. On completion, this project would provide water for 7.25 lakhs of acres. It will also provide water to for Visakhapatnam Steel plant 720 MWs of

electricity can also be generated. But this project of much significance is also being neglected. I request the Central Govt. to see that this project is completed as early as possible.

Sir, there is no irrigation project in my constituency of Amalapuram. Except the barrage at Dhavaleshwaram which was constructed by Sir Arthur Cotton, there is hardly any project. My constituency happens to be a delta area. Many projects can be built on river Godavari. Since it happens to be a fertile land, we can increase food production by harnessing Godavari river waters. Moreover, the canals in this area which were constructed long ago are heavily silted. Since the expenditure involved is very huge, the Central Government should come forward to help the State Government in desilting these canals. Gautami and Vasistha are the tributaries of the river Godavari. Aqueducts were constructed on these tributaries. These aqueducts are now on the verge of collapse and need major repairs. The State Government alone cannot take up this work as the expenditure involved is very huge. Hence the Central Govt. should assist the State Govt. in carrying on the repair work of these aqueducts.

My constituency is a coastal area. The river beds are heavily silted at the point of meeting the sea. As a result of it, a lot of dirty water accumulates thereby posing many problems to the local people. The accumulation of dirty water at these points is so much that even the standing crops are being washed away due to their overflow causing much loss to the farmers. So I request the Govt. to desilt the canals and rivers beds in my area.

Sir, the disbanding of Tungabhadra Board is illogical. The interest of farmers in the area can be well protected only when the Board functions. Disbanding of the Tungabhadra Board would not serve the cause of farmers in the area.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan): I rise to oppose the Demands for Grant made by

the Ministry of Water Resources. What I point out is that there should be a scientific management of water resources because the Minister himself admitted during the last year's budget speech that less than 50 per cent of the available water resources are utilised for irrigation purposes. And, secondly, I would like to point out that these irrigation projects should be completed in time because, if they are not completed in time, cost escalation takes place and it causes tremendous hardship for the common people. Thus, when Bansagar Project was started, on the river Sona the estimated cost was only Rs. 91.30 crores. But, at the 1982 price level the cost has been estimated at Rs. 282.51 crores.

Then, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the severe erosion that is taking place on the entire course of the river Ganga in West Bengal. Because there is severe erosion, the Government of West Bengal appointed a commission, with a Member of the Central Water and Power Commission as Chairman. The Commission estimated that Rs. 280 crores would be required for taking anti-erosion measures. But the Government of India, took the responsibility for taking measures only in the district of Malda. But already, severe erosion is taking place in the district of Murshidabad, Nadia and Hooghly.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is a very serious problem.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Several villages are affected, towns are affected, trading centres, industrial centres, are affected, and railway tracks are going to be submerged. Not only this: National Highway No. 34 and the railway line from Dhulia-Farakka-Jamalpur are inundated, the railway line near Sakara is also getting submerged. This is a very big problem. And the Government of West Bengal despite its limited resources is spending nearly Rs. 30 crores every year. Therefore, the Central Government cannot refuse its responsibility and I hope that the hon. Minister would look into this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is right. Thank you. Shri Mool Chand Daga. Only three minutes please.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will put a few questions only. India has a total irrigation potential of 1350 lakh hectares. So far you have been able to achieve a capacity to irrigate 60 million hectares only. Now I would like to point out that there are 108 dams under construction. Had these dams been built in time, only Rs. 3481 crores would have been spent on them but now they would cost Rs. 16372 crores, as has been revealed by you in your answer.

[English]

Out of 181 major on-going projects, 102 projects spilled over to the Seventh Five Year Plan, and their cost is assessed at Rs. 16,372 crores.

[Translation]

It is strange that Sharda Dam would be completed after 175 years, Sriram Sagar in 170 years, Kosi in 64 years and some others in 66 years. Have you assessed the loss due to delay in completion of these projects. I want that there should be an All-India Service of Engineers. Why are these dams constructed? These dams are built to be washed away, so that the Engineers may be benefited. A minor flood sweeps away a dam.

I want to say that there was bungling in Rajasthan Canal and Command Area. Central Government provides money for these projects but nobody enquires into the bungling made by the Engineers. It was said in this regard :

[English]

"Five million hectares of irrigation potential created at a huge cost is lying unutilised. A proper utilisation of this can yield four to five million tonnes of additional foodgrains."

[Translation]

This is the extent of loss in a single project. In the 20 Point Programme the first point relates to increase in irrigation facilities. Let the hon. Minister, apprise the House about the progress made in each State under the 20 Point Programme. You provided the funds and formulated model by-laws. But

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

who are the beneficiaries? It is the influential people who utilise the waters from dams. D.P.A. is meant for the small farmers. You should pay attention towards minor irrigation schemes there, but you are not doing it. We even do not have tubewells and rigs. You should take a revolutionary step so far as irrigation is concerned and minimise corruption in this field. First, dams are built and then canals. The money spent by Government is not yielding satisfactory results.

The Centre had decided to take over the management of Bhakra-Beas Management Board, then why is it still with the Punjab Government? Neither Haryana nor Rajasthan are getting water. You must take necessary steps in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): I should like to confine myself to the problem faced by North Bengal. Our country is so big that perhaps it is not possible for any Minister to know about all the rivers and their conditions. That is why I like to bring to his notice that rivers Tursa, Raydak, Sankos, Janti, Jaldaka, Tista Basra, Dudua, Kalyani, are coming from Bhutan and create problems in the shape of floods and erosion in this area. Erosion is a menace in this area. So, whatever developmental work the Government intends to do, due to this erosion that gets nullified. There are also a number of small rivers and rivulets. If all these rivers are not controlled, no plan or project in this area will be successful. These rivers cannot be controlled without the cooperation of Bhutan Government. So, the Government of Bhutan should also be taken into confidence and a joint action may be initiated for controlling these rivers. It is our good luck that friendly Bhutan is very much helping us and we are also helping them. I request the Minister to take up this matter with the Bhutan Government so that we can have an agreement with that Government for controlling these rivers. If these rivers are controlled, North Bengal can feed entire West Bengal. We can give them sufficient wheat and rice and everything for decent living. Our people there are very hard-working people. Secondly a big

volume of Brahmaputra water is still being wasted. No project, no scheme has still been made for that. So, my request is that some project should be worked out. The entire Brahmaputra water is going to Bangladesh for no use and from there it is going to the sea. So, when the Brahmaputra-Tista project comes up, it will give rescue to Catcutta Port also. Therefore, this scheme should be seriously thought about because this will be a very good scheme for the entire country. I repeat that since this is a long pending scheme, this time Government of India should consider it with all seriousness. Thank you very much for giving me time and I hope the Minister will think over my suggestion.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Cauveri water dispute is hanging in fire. We have the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act but in spite of that you have not been able to settle the inter-State river dispute. After all, water is a national asset. If Tamil Nadu is decimated in drought, Karnataka cannot thrive.....(Interruption).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has lost interest in Karnataka.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: It is not merely a question of sharing waters of the river Cauvery, it is a question of survival of Tamil Nadu. The farmers of Tamil Nadu are always in suspense whether they will get water for cultivation from Cauvery or not. Each and every year it is a burning problem, a heart-rending problem of the agricultural people of Tamil Nadu. There is no meaning in constituting the tribunals also. The Awards of the Tribunals can also be taken to a court of law. We have now got the National Water Council under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has called our Prime Minister as the Prince Charming of India. The Prime Minister has advised him to amicably settle the Cauvery water dispute.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That was last year.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: Yes. He will not be recalcitrant. Kindly save Tamil Nadu from becoming arid land. The people of Madras are unlucky people. The Veeranam

Water Supply Scheme was given a go-by the AIADMK government just because it was started by Dr. Karunanidhi. The late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi assured the people of Madras that Krishna water would be supplied to Madras. She laid the foundation stone for Telugu-Ganga scheme. The Government of Tamil Nadu has already given a few crores of rupees for the scheme. Now, hurdles are being put. The scheme must be approved by the Centre and should be completed on war-footing. I request the Government of Karnataka not to raise the same imaginary grievances.

Buckingham Canal has a length of some 800 kilometres. It is an inter-State waterway. The Britishers used this canal for military navigation purposes during the Second World War. This canal should be desilted so that it can be an outlet for absorbing the flash floods also.

Last year, during the debate on floods also I mentioned that Madras particularly North Madras, was inundated by floods. This should also be looked into by the Minister.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I must thank the House for its kind patience for such a long debate since yesterday till now. I must also thank all the Members who have participated in the debate, who have made very valuable suggestions, who have made kind, not so kind, and other observations, may be valid, to a certain extent invalid; relevant, to a great extent irrelevant... (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : 'To a great extent irrelevant'—Sir, this is the respect he is showing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I will come to that. With great respect I am talking. (Interruptions). Why I say this is—it is not that relevant in the sense relevant to the Demands concerned. I did not say that they are not relevant to the water resource problems of the country. From that angle I said that they are not relevant to the purpose for which the House

is considering the Demands that it is going to pass. And from that angle I said this. (Interruptions).

Sir, I have heard almost the entire debate and the observations of all the Members. They have spoken about the water resource problems, mainly irrigation problems, next to drinking water problem which perhaps should have found a better place in the State Assemblies because this House is concerned about passing the Demands of the Water Resources Ministry in the sense we are not considering the passing of the Demands of the various State Governments, irrigation demands, which is the authorised area of the State Assemblies, and we have no right to encroach upon their right. I hope the hon. Members will agree with me.

AN HON. MEMBER : We are here to assist and suggest.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please assist me to make me able to understand you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go on.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : So I choose, with the kind permission of the House, not to reply to those points which have been raised by the hon. Members.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Then what remains, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear the Minister first.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I wish to inform the House and the Members perhaps—it is not that all the Members do not know, of course many Members know—that the irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the States. That is true. But majority of the Members spoke about the projects.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us allow the Minister to speak. Kindly have no running commentary. Please go on, Mr. Minister.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : They have made observations about the projects in respect of their States particularly with reference to their own constituencies. Of course, it is a forum where a Member of Parliament can voice his concern about the problems in his constituency. Otherwise, I know also as a Member of Parliament what reaction the voters will have if we do not speak about the problems of the people they represent. Otherwise, M.Ps. cannot go to the Assemblies and speak. They have to speak here and I appreciate that. May I request the hon. Members, through you, to also write to their respective State Governments about these problems and bring to their notice the irrigation problems that they want to, for which they are standing here on the floor of this House ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is a bank draft provided by the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please. Let the Minister speak.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Perhaps the hon. Member was not here. Otherwise he would have appreciated the points which I am making that many Members spoke about the projects which are not even before the Water Commission perhaps, leave alone their clearance or delay or anything. *(Interruptions)*. They have spoken about certain projects. If I can with all due respect to the hon. Members, those projects which do not find even in their State Plans any place, now they have been spoken of here.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request the Members not to intervene at every step. Please don't intervene at every step.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY
(Midnapore) : I think the Plans.....

*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot comment on sentence by sentence. No, no. That will not go on record. Mr. Minister, please go on.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please reply.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I will take his words very respectfully because I know him very well, what he speaks... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will not go on record. No running commentary. It is not a word for word commentary. The hon. Members have spoken something. Now, let us hear the Minister.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Subernarekha flows to your State also. I think, you are also concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We may be concerned. But, if at all, there is any clarification, you can ask it later. But don't intervene. Allow him to speak. If you intervene, nothing will go on record.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I know the hon. Member. He is very vociferous about the problem even if he is not concerned with it.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Should it go on record ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I don't mind if it goes out of the record !

Now, Sir, I want to bring to the kind notice of the House certain basic facts about this country, the country's problems, the requirements and the water resources. If I can say, the only source of water for this country, or for that matter any other country is, precipitation, *i.e.* rain. In this country, it is assessed to be 400 million hectare metres. Of this, about 70 million hectare metres evaporate and about 215 million hectare metres percolate into the ground and the rest flows out to the rivers. A part of percolation also returns to the rivers as base flow. So, that you will understand. If you can know this fact,

perhaps the House will appreciate the problem with which we are concerned.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : What is the hectare metre ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Do you know hectare ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : I know.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Do you know metre ? What is the metre ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : You I know.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : If a metre depth of water is spread over an hectare of land, that is called the hectare metre. I hope you understand.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Now, you must be a professor.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I don't want a student like you.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : But somebody must teach me also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow the Minister to speak.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Taking about 20 million ha. metres as contribution from catchments outside India, the average annual flow from surface sources is estimated to be 178 million ha. metres. Out of this, only about 70 million ha. metres is considered as utilisable because of constraints of topography, economic etc. It can be known by the House that nearly 54 million ha. metres is contribute by the Brahmaputra basin of which only 2 million ha. metres is utilisable.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shame.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : No, shame. Perhaps the hon. Member from West Bengal knows....

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : It is not shame to you. It is shame to Lord Varuna.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. Member from West Bengal knows the mighty problems of the mighty river Brahmaputra. He also knows that there has been the Brahmaputra Commission which has been appointed to draw a master-plan for the overall development of the water resources. The master-plan is ready. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't interrupt. I have requested the Member not to interrupt every sentence. If there is any doubt, you can ask clarification, at the end. Don't interrupt or else the reply would not be complete.

16.45 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Please, let the reply be complete.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : We try to help.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not think hon. Members need help the Minister.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Out of 70 million ha. metres, about 80% will be utilised for irrigation purposes and balance for domestic and water supply, industrial uses and thermal power etc.

In addition, about 60 million ha. metres is considered as the annual replenishable recharge to groundwater of which 42 million ha. metres is considered as utilisable. About 70 per cent of this is likely to be utilised for irrigation and balance for other uses.

We are now about 700 million people. We have more than doubled, after independence, almost adding a population of Australia every year to this country. Now we can imagine the rapid increase in the need of water resources for the production of not only food but fibre and other requirements for which water is a basic input.

In this way, the domestic requirement by 1990-91 for water supply and sanitation is estimated as 1.28 million ha. metres and 0.8 million ha. metres respectively. For industrial uses, the water requirement by the turn of the century may be about 3 million ha. metres.

[Shri B. Shankaranand]

I am giving these figures because the House since yesterday talked about only irrigation and about other demands and water by this increasing population of the country.

The domestic requirements for water supply and sanitation for the urban areas is expected to go up from the present about 32,000 million litres per day to 49,000 million litres per day by the end of the century. The situation in respect of water supply to the rural areas is rather alarming. At the beginning of the decade *i.e.*, 1980-81, only about 31% of the rural population had access to organised water supply. To meet the planning norm of 40 litres per capita per day of water availability for the rural population, the present modest supplies of drinking water alone will have to be stepped up to 27,000 million litres of water per day by the end of the century. Presently, as many as 39,000 villages are classified as problem villages from the point of view of drinking water supply and only about 51% of the total rural population of the country has been covered by drinking water supply sources.

I give these figures only to show to the House that it is not for irrigation alone that we need water. We need water for all these purposes. Perhaps the House will be kind enough to consider the problems of the Ministry of Water Resources in the sense of development of water resources for which we need authority, support and back up from this House.

You know in certain places like Madras, the drinking water problem has been acute.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Hyderabad also now.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Hyderabad, Madras and in many cities of the country.

The drinking water scheme has lent strong support, or weakness, whatever you may call it, to the Telugu... (*Interruptions*) Ganga Project. Uptil now, there has been a practice of clearing the projects sent by the States only with reference to the irrigation requirements.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You only give lectures, no money.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Now we shall have to think that while clearing the irrigation projects, the content of water supply for drinking is also contained and from that angle, further projects shall have to be cleared.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Drainage also has to be taken care of.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Of course, drainage is part of the scheme.

Many members observed : why there is no water resources policy of the nation. Many members spoke about it saying that there is no national policy on water resources. I can say and I have said on many occasions on the floor of the House that we have now been formulating a national water policy. A National Water Resources Council has been formed in 1983. The Council itself was born in 1983 of which the Prime Minister is the Chairman...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Still-born.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is born, it is working, it is functioning, it is talking and it will catch you also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Catch me for what ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is three-years old.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : ...and all the Chief Ministers are Members of this Council. The National Water Resources Council has held a meeting last year on October 30 and if I can say why this National Water Resources Council was born, I want to bring certain facts to the notice of the House—perhaps I will not be wasting the time of the House....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have to tolerate Ministers' irreverences.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Any lawyer can talk about relevance and irrelevance....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
No, no, I will patiently listen.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur) : In a lighter vein he said.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I know it. We are both lawyers not in this House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
Here we have no clients.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Our clients are not present here.

Water which is vital for sustenance of life and economic development is becoming an increasingly scarce resource in the country. The planning and execution of water resources development have by and large been carried out by individual States so far. As the major rivers in our country are inter-State in nature, it has not been possible for individual States to prepare master plans in respect of these rivers. It has been felt that planning at national level for utilisation of water resources should be undertaken so that the greatest good is achieved and optimum benefits derived from the available water resources.

The necessity for an apex body to evolve national policies for development and use of water resources in conformity with the highest national interests has been emphasized in recent years by various authorities including the Irrigation Commission, National Commission on Agriculture and the Rashtiya Barh Ayog. The National Development Council at its meeting held on 14th March 1982, also discussed the matter and the Council observed that a climate should be created in which national water plans are prepared keeping in view the national perspective as well as State and regional needs. In that context, the Council welcomed the proposal of the Government of India for setting up of National Water Resources Council and River Basin Commissions.

Now the functions of this Council are important because this House which has been discussing various problems very often will appreciate as to what are going to be the functions of this Council. The functions of the National Water Resources Council will be as follows ;

- (a) To lay down the national water policy and to review it from time to time.
- (b) To consider and review water development plans submitted to it (including alternative plans) by the National Water Development Agency, the River Basin Commissions, etc.
- (c) To recommend acceptance of water plans with such modifications as may be considered appropriate and necessary.
- (d) To direct carrying out such further studies as may be necessary for fuller consideration of the plans or components thereof.
- (e) To advise on the modalities of resolving inter-State differences with regard to specific elements of water plans and such other issues that may arise during planning of implementation of the projects.

To advise on practices and procedures, administrative arrangements and regulations for fair distribution and utilisation of water resources by different beneficiaries keeping in view optimum developments and the maximum benefits to the people, etc. etc.

The National Water Council formed a sub-group to prepare a document on a policy. The policy document is to be prepared within 6 months from October last year and the House will find it interesting to know who are the members of this sub-group who are burdened with the responsibility of producing the National Policy paper. They are : Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh—Member of the sub-group, Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Chief Minister of Punjab, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Chief Minister of U.P., Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister of Rajasthan and the four Central Ministers—Minister of Energy, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Transport and the Minister of Environment and Forests and the Minister of Water Resources being the Chairman of the sub-group. This body is entrusted with the responsibility of producing Policy Paper. It is applicable for the entire country in view

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of the National Water Resources Development and their future is concerned. This Body is engaged in preparing the document. Within a couple of months, we hope to complete the Policy Paper and that will be finally placed before the full Body of the National Water Council and that will be brought before the House.

I am happy to inform the House, though it may be a little premature to say, that on major part of the policy document that has been so far attempted to be drafted, there has been unanimity. Only on certain issues, members are now considering how to iron out the differences. It has been a happy augury as far as working of this group is concerned. The member, though belonging to different parties, belonging to regional and national parties, have applied their mind to the problems of this country as a whole and trying to prepare a document which ultimately will be discussed...

Now, the problem is how to harness water that is now going to the seas. Many Members have said about this. It is not a question of harnessing surplus water; it is harnessing ground water also. The biggest problem is how to take water from the surplus area to the deficit area. This is the biggest problem and the problem is how to provide drinking water to the entire population of this country.

I have already explained when we passed the Ravi-Beas Tribunal Bill, about the legal provisions and the impediments that the

16.56 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Government is facing in providing and bringing about the cooperation and coordination between the various State Chief Ministers. So, they come together and apply their mind in the common interest of this country. Specially, the Telugu-Ganga has been the subject matter both inside the House and outside the House. I have said time and again both here and outside that let the Chief Ministers sit together and iron out the differences about the availability of water for which the Telegu-Ganga is being planned and funds are allocated. I need

not repeats and waste the time of the House because the only thing is I again appeal to all the three Chief Ministers, through you, and through this House—the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, to come together and sort out their differences, and see that. *(Interruptions)* I have already spoken...

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : All the Chief Ministers are agreeable for the Bacchawat Tribunal Award. They said they will abide by the Award. You just implement it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Perhaps I have not made myself more communicable and understandable to the hon. Members.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They feel that there is an agreement and you are creating disagreement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is very interesting that you are telling that they have no differences of opinion.

The question is about availability of water. Without water, leave alone Telugu-Ganga, no project can be planned and implemented. Now the very basic fact is : where is water ? If there is water available for Andhra Pradesh, perhaps there should not be any problem—besides if it is technically cleared and economically found viable. For that purpose the entire water given and allotted by the Bacchawat Committee has been committed by Andhra Pradesh and unless Andhra Pradesh shows that there is surplus water and that can be made available, I do not think the House will agree in clearing any project of this type. But there we can find a way. It is not that the problem is insurmountable. We can find solutions. Of course, the claims of Polavaram are there. The diversion of the Godavari water into the Krishna waters is there. The Bacchawat Committee award, the Krishna Award and the Godavari Award, if read together, perhaps we will be able to find water... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Even the Bacchawat Committee cannot come to our rescue.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Bacchawat can be of help provided we want their help.

[English]

For this purpose we have said : let the Chief Ministers come and sit together and see. We can find a solution and we are sure to find a solution...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Which year ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : As early as possible and as early as these three Chief Ministers meet.

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU : As the representative of Madras I want to point out that for the coming summer the Madras City people will have no drinking water. What is the immediate solution you are thinking of ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Madras, this year also, had no water. To save their crops—the Chief Minister of Madras and the Government of Tamil Nadu are aware ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : The Cauvery delta people are suffering for want of water for cultivation and the people of Madras City are suffering for want of drinking water. What is the solution ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Luckily the crops of Tamil Nadu have been saved. Karnataka did release water—5 TMC—when it was most needed. The water was released by Karnataka and at the intervention of the Centre. The Prime Minister himself has written personal letters to all the three Chief Ministers, to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, to come together and iron out their differences—more than once. I have myself talked to all the three Chief Ministers. I went to Andhra Pradesh myself to talk personally to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. I have talked to the Karnataka Chief Minister. I have talked to the Maharashtra Chief Minister. We have been trying—even at the Secretary level, they have held many meetings—so that these problems do not persist further at

the cost of the nation. We are not interested in wasting water into the sea.

Many Members have expressed their concern as to why the Centre is not doing something for the drought prone areas or the drought-affected areas by way of creating permanent assets of irrigation projects or something like that. The Irrigation Commission has recommended certain things. They have been placed before the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission thought that if we put conditions that irrigation projects can be built or should be encouraged only in the drought-affected areas, perhaps their freedom of exercising their options regarding development of any particular area in the State would be restricted. We do not want to do that. Let there be some flexibility to the Chief Minister, to the Governments of the States, so that they can utilise those according to their particular needs. This aspect was considered by the Planning Commission. But I do appreciate the concern of the hon. Members. We have been spending so much money. If I can give certain figures, the Central assistance to states for drought relief during the 4th Plan was Rs. 666.32 crores, during the 5th Plan we gave Rs. 88.69 crores, during the Annual Plans from 1978-80 the amount given as relief was Rs. 219.97 crores and during the 6th Plan from 1980-85 the drought relief given was Rs. 1124.86 crores.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : What about the irrigation projects in drought affected areas ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : In 1985-86 upto 7th January 1986 Rs. 261 crores have been given only for drought relief. Besides this, the Centre is giving flood relief also. We have been giving much more money for the relief work than we are giving for active constructive work.

SHRI SARAT DEB : But Orissa is buying TVs from that money !

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, regarding the expression of the Members that why not the Centre is nationalising the waters, I think, it is very interesting that this is for the first time that Members have in majority raised their voice that the waters

[Shri B. Shankaranand]

should be nationalised. Water should be nationalised in the sense that it should be a central subject. I hope this is what they meant.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
After all you have understood this !

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am trying to understand whether I am right or you are right.

Sir, there are many rivers in this country which are inter-state rivers. The major rivers in this country are inter-state rivers. We have no central scheme of taking any project as a central project, as a power project in the irrigation or the water resources development side. It is a fact and under these circumstances we have no funds to give as assistance to any State except that we give drought grants as central assistance and these grants and loans are not tied with any particular project. Unless we change the entire scheme of financing and adopt a new method of taking irrigation and water resources development scheme as central schemes, perhaps the suggestions made by the Hon. Members may not fit into the scheme of the present things.

Many Members from the other side of course, raised their concern about Farakka. Without going into the details, may I say that the West Bengal Government has not taken it as seriously as the Hon. Members here want them to take ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
That is the usual quota, please come to the point.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am coming to the point. I am giving the facts and figures as to what the West Bengal Government is doing.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Please tell us clearly whether 40000 cusecs of water is available or not for Calcutta.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : If shouting could have brought rains and water perhaps the Members from the West Bengal... (Interruptions)

Sir, Tista-Barrage project in West Bengal was contemplated to be constructed in three phases. The State Government took up the execution of this project in 1976 at an estimated cost of Rs. 69.72 crores.

(Interruptions)

Presently, the first sub-stage of Stage-I of Phase-I is under execution and the estimated cost of the project has escalated to Rs. 400 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 140 crores has been reportedly incurred by the State Government upto 1983-84. The State Government have been under providing for this project year after year amounts less than what has been agreed to by the Planning Commission. This is what the West Bengal Government has been doing. An outlay of Rs. 28 crores was agreed to during the year 1983-84. During the course of the year the State Government approached the Finance Ministry for an additional amount of Rs. 5 crores stating that they would be spending Rs. 35 crores in that year. You know what they did ? The Government of India provided an assistance of Rs. 5 crores as was requested by the West Bengal Government. After receiving the assistance from the Centre it was seen that the actual expenditure on this project during 1983-84 was only Rs. 25.28 crores. Similarly during the year 1984-85 an outlay of Rs. 27 crores was made for this project and here again they did not spend the entire amount.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
Sir, we have decided to give privilege motion notice for every ministerial mis-statement.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : You are most welcome.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it has become a habit to malign one particular State.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : You are the most vociferous Member on the other side and you must know what you are doing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I request the Members to take their seat.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, may I take a couple of minutes of the House to tell something so that hon. Members on the other side should know what they are doing.

A case was being argued before a court by a lawyer. The lawyer on the other side was arguing the case. You know how? He was shouting, thumping the bench, kicking the ground, blowing in the air and still at the same time shouting.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Who?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is what you are doing. Then the turn came of the other side. Do you know what the other side lawyer did? He just closed his mouth. He was kicking the ground, thumping the bench but without speaking a word. The judge asked what my friend, the advocate, are you doing? He said that I am replying to the major part of the argument of the other side. *(Interruptions)*

Now, Sir, may I argue the other part and say...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why don't you reply that way only?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It will thus be seen that the West Bengal Government has been under-providing year after year which is one of the causes attributable for the delay in the completion and the escalation of the cost of this project.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : You know how much money you are spending for this project. For a project of Rs. 400 crores you are providing not more than Rs. 5 crores.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, Members have expressed concern about the tribal sub-plan and scheduled castes component plan. The population of the scheduled tribes in the country constitutes about 8 per cent of the total population whereas the tribal areas constitute about 15 per cent of the geographical area. Considering that the irrigation and drinking water facilities in

these areas are generally low, the Union Government has drawn up a strategy for development of tribal areas by introducing Tribal sub-Plan approach. The State Governments carve out Sub-Plans for their State Plan for development of irrigation as well. To supplement the efforts of State Governments, special Central Assistance is being provided by the Ministry of Welfare, under which minor irrigation schemes benefiting individual farmers become eligible for assistance.

With a view to encourage irrigation in tribal areas, the general guidelines for taking up new schemes in Seventh Plan is not made applicable to schemes benefiting tribal areas. Ground Water development holds promise for improving the conditions in Tribal areas. Recognising its important role, a provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made in the Seventh Plan allocation for the Central Ground Water Board for taking up detailed investigations and explorations in tribal areas for drawing up a Ground Water development programme.

Sir, a scheme has also been in formulation for assisting the farmers of worker sections including the marginal farmers in providing subsidy for digging wells and tube-wells wherever it is possible. A scheme for giving subsidy is being evolved and when it is cleared, we will come before the House.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, in my speech, I have mentioned a number of rivers which are originating from Butan and for controlling these rivers have you taken any steps with the Butan Government.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. Member has raised certain points which are mainly concerning the projects in his State. Those suggestions are to be considered by the State Government. May I request hon. Member to approach the State Government in this regard? We will see whatever assistance we can give to the State Government.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : But the State Government has no power to discuss this matter with the foreign Governments. So, naturally the Indian Government has to come forward for this purpose.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already said that he would give assistance to the State Government.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, the Ganga Flood Control Commission has since finalised the Comprehensive Plan for the Ganga entitled "Comprehensive Plan of Flood Control in the Ganga Basin (Part-I) assessment of problem and identification of goals" and forwarded the same to the concerned States in March 1986. The individual works will, however, be taken up by the concerned States from their State Plans. Sir, as I have already said the Brahmaputra Board has, I am happy to say that within four or five years, completed the Master Plan and it is to the credit of the Board—I should say—that such a huge work has been done and further work will be taken up in the light of the recommendations made by the Commission.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur) : What has happened to the proposal of constructing two dams on the Brahmaputra River, that is, Dehang and Subansiri dams ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Those dams are part of the total Master Plan of the Brahmaputra and they are being considered.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : They are not given up, I hope.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : How can we give up that when the Master Plan has been prepared and it is under consideration of the Government ? There is no question of giving them up. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOUL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Sir, Rajasthan is now under severe grip of water famine. The Centre should give assistance and tube-wells and pump sets.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already said that he would consider those points.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I have noted the suggestions, grievances and other valuable points that have been made by the hon. Members and they will be considered by the Ministry.

(Interruptions)

I have very little time at my disposal otherwise I would have replied to each and

every point raised by the hon. Members. However, I have taken note of what the hon. Members have said and if necessary, I will take them up with the State Governments and assist to solve the problems which they deem fit.

SHRI SARAT DEB : What about the allegations that I have made regarding the misuse of FDR money ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I do not know how serious and reckless those allegations are and I would not comment on them. If the hon. Member has got anything particular, he may please write to me and I will see what can be done.

SHRI SARAT DEB : It is already there on the table of the Orissa Assembly.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I would request all the hon. Members who have moved their cut motions to withdraw them and pass the Demands of the Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Water Resources to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grant relating to the Ministry of Water Resources 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, 1987 in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 97 relating to the Ministry of Water Resources."

The motion was adopted.

1	2	3	4		
101.	Nuclear Power Schemes	70,00,00,000	39,28,02,000	1,60,78,17,000	1,99,15,08,000
	Department of Electronics				
102.	Department of Electronics	9,77,33,000	7,78,83,000	48,86,67,000	38,94,17,000
	Department of Ocean Development				
103.	Department of Ocean Development	4,42,25,000	20,00,000	22,41,24,000	1,00,00,000
	Department of Space				
104.	Department of Space	22,67,72,000	32,96,13,000	1,13,43,61,000	96,45,15,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Hannan Mollah.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Atomic Energy etc. I will not be going into the technicalities of the subject, but would confine myself only to the policy matters regarding this subject.

The Government of India had taken many decisions in the Scientific Policy Resolution in 1958. One of the aims as mentioned therein was to secure for the people of the country all the benefits that can accrue from the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge.

One of the objectives of the Technology Policy Statement is "to provide the maximum gainful and satisfying employment to all the strata of society, with emphasis on the employment of women and weaker sections of the society." This also has been stated as one of the policy statements. But in this light, if we consider the Government's policy as to how they are doing in this sphere, we can just say that the direction of this policy has not been properly followed. Rather, it was diverted towards the actual class character of this Government and to serve the class interests of the monopolists, multi-nationals and big houses. The present Government's thrust is also towards that direction only.

Before going into the other parts of the policy and before offering a few suggestions about the priority things in this respect, I want to mention a few things about the policy pursued by this Government.

First, let us take the question of the formation of the Advisory Council. You know, it is peculiar in a parliamentary system. It has been found that the arrangement instituted recently is in the form of a scientific adviser and the science advisory council and they will report to and advise the Prime Minister. But they are not going to report to the whole Cabinet. This is not a presidential form of Government. So, this is anomalous. This is the first point that I wanted to make.

Secondly, the joint arrangement introduced consists of two parallel institutions—one being the scientific adviser to the Prime Minister in the appointment of Prof. Menon and the other being the Science Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao. This arrangement as instituted now, is bound to create more than one centre of power and there is going to be all kinds of dissonance and disturbance and ugly lobbies and rather than strengthening our science base, it will lead to more problems in the management of science. This is also something, which I feel is not in the correct direction.

Thirdly, let us take the question of the composition of the science advisory council

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

that is announced. We notice the presence of two multi-national companies' representatives which is very serious thing, and we differ with this. Out of the eight members of the council one is Dr. A.S. Ganguly, Chairman of the Hindustan Lever Limited and another is Dr. Sekhar Rana of the Indian Explosives Limited. This is a serious situation.

The task of the Advisory Council is to advise the Prime Minister on (i) major issues facing science and technology today; (ii) the health of science and technology in the country and the direction in which it should move; (iii) a perspective plan for 2000 AD; and (iv) specific problems facing scientific departments, policies, priorities for research and technology missions, etc. So, the Council can look into all this work, *i.e.* almost anything connected with the scientific departments under the Prime Minister. So, Sir, are we going to allow free access to the multi-national corporations' representatives in all these departments? Can we allow these companies to direct our departments? Why are we bothered about Coomar Narain spying on our secrets, when the country is going to legally pat on the secrets to these multi-national companies. This is a very serious thing and we differ on this issue. And we hope that we have the right to express our difference. Naturally, this is a serious situation. Sir, you know these two companies' representatives are widely interested in our country. The Hindustan Levers are producing so many agricultural things. You know that also. They are expanding investment in the areas of plant nutrients, seed business, plant tissues culture and all these things. And the other Company the ICI are widely interested in Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Pesticides, non-conventional energy sources and all these things. So these two Members are entering.

Secondly, I want to mention here that the Government has to take up the question of Defence, Space and all these things directly. After mid 50's experience, the technology for the agriculture has not received much attention from those on whom the Government depended. Later on they changed and took some responsibility

in this technology also because they cannot get direct technology from the outside countries. Agriculture cannot do things which multinationals and big business can. But the question here is selection for the agricultural technology development. The selection was made by keeping the rich farmers in mind as agents of technological transformation for agriculture. That is also a direction of the Government's policy on which we differ. I want to make clear one thing here.

Regarding industry there is a wide system here. You know the functioning of the Science and Technology Department. Their function has been essentially to provide testing and survey services, preparation of feasibility reports, consultancy for trouble shooting, import substitution in areas where the foreign capital has little stakes, etc. Otherwise the policy has been totally *Laissez Faire*. This is the situation for the big industries. This is a serious situation, so here we differ. I want to remind the hon. Minister that in 70's, the recommendation of the National Committee on Science and Technology for Five Year Plans—for the perspective Plan for S and T. But that was not implemented. This is the attitude of the Government towards this policy.

Then Sir, the question of agency which are doing the major performance in this, *i.e.* CSIR. I am quoting from some newspaper reports and PAC also mentioned that "of the 295 projects developed by the CSIR laboratory, only 39 or less than 15 per cent would be actually put into production." So what a waste it is. They are not transforming into practice and that also the Government should take note of because we are spending money and the research projects are taken just analytically. We have no plan perspective what we will develop and implement. Only 15 per cent will be implemented, that is the seriousness of the situation. 141 projects have been rejected after taking this. This is the casual attitude regarding the functioning of this organisation.

Sir after these difficulties, the Government is taking about Missions and the question of high thrust areas. But during the Sixth Plan, they talked about this. But during the entire Sixth Plan, they did not do anything on this question of missions or high thrust areas.

Recently, in this Budget also, they have mentioned it, I don't know what will they do. Actually, the CSIR missions are being evolved through the telex with the top management in the Ministry playing the role of the telegraph office. That attitude was also there. I think in future the Ministry will take care of these deficiencies.

Next question regarding the policy—I want to mention here is the question of democratisation of this Science and Technology policy. In 1973, there was some initiation, but after that it has been shelved. The Indian private industry which has shown scant respect to the goal of technology absorption, is going to be given, under the 7th Plan, a number of new doles *via* schemes under the Promotion of Industrial Research in Industries; Technology Promotion Board Transfer and Trading Technology; and Technology Absorption and Adaptation etc.

While they are doing that, you will be surprised to see that the allocation made to the schemes entitled "Science and Technology for the Weaker Sections" is merely a paltry sum of Rs. 15 lakhs; but under the policies of 1958 and 1973, that was the main thrust. But now only Rs. 15 lakhs have been given for it. So, this is meagre. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that this is a deviation from the directions given, and whatever is mentioned in the policy thrust.

Next: it was mentioned many times during the last ten years that the Government was going to institute a National Registry for Foreign Collaboration but that is not being done. Why is the Government avoiding it? Government should explain the difficulty.

The next problem arises because of our defective policy. We talk about brain drain. This is a major problem for our country. Our Prime Minister is talking about centres of excellence. Our five centres of excellence are the five IITs. They are producing scientists and engineers. In the last two decades, about 10,000 such bright students left the country, and went to America. In America, to produce an engineer it costs \$50,000. But we are producing them, and they are going there.

About 80% of the computer scientists, every year, are leaving the country. On the one hand, we are talking about centres of excellence, and on the other you are selling the produce of such centres of excellence to the American imperialists, who do not want to spend money for the production of engineers. They are purchasing them from our country. This is a serious problem. This also should be taken into account.

Another problem: Government is also going in for contract with multi-nationals. (*Interruptions*) Whatever technology our country's scientists have evolved, is not getting proper attention. Recently, Government has signed three agreements with three multi-nationals in France, Japan and Belgium, for telecommunication technology transfer regarding digital switchgear. Why so? When the Government issued the tender, hundreds of companies came, saying that they wanted to produce it. Some were accepted. Then they were told that the Government did not require so much. After a few months, we entered into a contract with those multi-nationals. So, our scientists inside the country are getting frustrated. So, that also should not be the attitude of the Government. It is also a serious thing. I will request the hon. Minister to look into this aspect.

Next, I will say a few words about the priority area. We should explore many fields, definitely. We do not want to seal off some of the fields, but the question is that technology alone will not make the country a modern nation. That you have to understand. It is not the end. Technology is the means to an end. If this is so, how can we create a modern man? We cannot do that the way you are doing. We have 50% of our people below the poverty line. 66% of them is illiterate, uneducated and ten crores of them are unemployed. Keeping them in such a condition, we cannot build up the country into a modern nation. It is not an isolated fact. (*Interruption*) It should not be taken in an isolated way. You are giving much more importance to the small number of people, and you do not pay attention to the problems of the major section, *viz.* the weaker sections, as was enunciated in the earlier policy statement. So, science and technology can be a tool the means to an end, not an end in itself. I would suggest

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

that S and T infrastructure must have a broad-based capacity capable of responding to any contingency. Modern India must have the capability in almost all the new and emerging technology area like microelectronics, informatics, biotechnology, non-conventional energy sources and new materials and many other sources. That should be there. But we have to give a priority to a few areas. So, I suggest that for other projects we should have seriously given priority to certain areas.

First, you take agriculture, because without agriculture we cannot reach 21st century. For that, I suggest that maximum new technology should be evolved. Then take dry land farming. Dry land farming in the country accounts for 73 per cent of the 130 million hectares cultivated for foodgrains but contributes only 42 per cent of the total foodgrains production. So, we should evolve some technology for dry land farming. Then take water management irrigated agriculture : what we just discussed, but we require technology to evolve so that we can utilize that composite plan for soil nutrients requirement. For that, we should evolve some technology and maximum stress should be given in that subject. For industry, firstly, we should give importance to our upgradation and utilisation of local resources, traditional skills, energy conservation and telecommunications development. Regarding health, we should try to develop some sort of vaccinations and diagnostic kits for treatment of major communicable diseases, non-drug therapies, extension of modern community health services. To these three areas, we should give maximum importance, we should give maximum thrust and create our new technology so that if we can take benefits from these services, we will be able to take majority of our people with us to reach the 21st century; but leaving a majority of the people behind, if only we want to go to the 21st century with 10 per cent of the people of the highlanders, high society people, monopolists and rich people, then that 21st century will not be the 21st century of the India people, but then that 21st century will be the 21st century of the exploiters. So, I request the hon. Minister to change his direction properly and take proper action so that we can take the people with

us and correct our policy and go in the right direction in this policy. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the first opportunity in the Parliamentary history of our country that the Demands for Grants relating to Science and Technology are being discussed in the Lok Sabha. This is an ample proof of the emphasis laid by our leadership and our Government on scientific thinking and the development of science and technology. It is our good fortune that all our leaders since independence, namely, the late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, had a scientific outlook. All of them endeavoured to lift India to the level of developed nations in the field of science and technology. It is our good fortune that our present youthful Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi is laying great emphasis on it in order to strengthen our economy and bring India to the level of the developed nations of the world. Again, the achievements and application of science and technology are to be used to bridge the gap in the level of development of the urban and the rural areas by extending the benefits of science to the remotest corners of our country.

I would like to draw your attention to Science and Technology Policy of 1958 and the Resolution got adopted by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, and presented in this House in 1982. By treating these two policies as our models we have made significant achievement in the field of science and technology which has made possible the rapid progress in the areas of agriculture, industry, defence and the successful creation of a scientific environment in the country. There is no need to remind you about appalling condition of our industry, agriculture, scientists and engineers at the time of independence. Today, a definite policy is being pursued in respect of these areas to enable our country to progress and become self-reliant in every field. The Member who spoke before me alleged that our country was inclined towards multinationals in its policy of science and technology. I want to make it clear that if it were so, we would

have allowed them to set up industries here, and our Government would not have taken the trouble of establishing the BHEL and the HMT to manufacture quality watches and tractors. Again, in the field of Atomic Energy, our Government could have allowed the foreign countries to instal our Atomic Power Station. But we chose to develop this technology indigenously with the contribution of our own scientists and engineers. Thus this accusation is baseless. Our Government's Policy and its implementation do not indicate any tilt towards multinationals.

In the field of science, almost everyday, new inventions are being made, new projects are being launched and new technology is being developed. If our country had not made proper use of this advanced knowledge how could we have competed with the developed nations of the world? If we see our achievements for the past 10 to 15 years in the field of science, we shall find that we have become self-reliant even in the area satellite technology. We have now the capacity to develop our own satellite launchers. We have also designed our own satellite in accordance with our specific needs, and launched it in space. So far as Atomic Energy is concerned, we can proudly claim today that we are the seventh major nation in the world which is in possession of the most modern technology in this field. Whether atomic energy is used for peaceful purposes or for various other applications, our scientists and engineers have been successful in achieving their objectives.

Recently, I had the opportunity of visiting Kalapakkam. There, after seeing the M.A.P.P. Atomic Power Station, it seemed to me that our country has successfully developed the foreign technology and has become self-reliant in the field of atomic energy and in the installation techniques of Atomic Power Stations. By developing the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) we have taken a step forward in this field of technology. We are definitely grateful to those scientists and engineers who have developed the Test Reactor on the basis of their own experiments and enabled the nation to attain a position where we have the capability of setting up our own Fast Breeder Reactor with a capacity of 500 megawatts.

Today, atomic energy can play a very significant role in the development of our country. Our aim is to use it solely for peaceful purposes and for the generation of electricity. A target of generating 10,000 megawatt capacity by 2000 A.D. has been fixed. If we want to achieve this target, then it is essential to make the necessary finances available and our allocation of 1400 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan must be enhanced. Only if we double or triple the amount during the succeeding five years plans, can we attain our target of setting up an Atomic Power Stations with 10 thousand megawatt capacity, at the cost of Rs. 14,000 crores.

Secondly, I wish to say that it takes a long time to instal an Atomic Power Station. The gestation period is approximately 10 to 12 years. We must try to reduce this time while setting up an Atomic Station. We must accept the fact that as we have fully developed the designing technology and knowhow of these plants, it should not take more than 6-7 years to complete a project of this nature. And if we are able to reduce the gestation period, then we would definitely be able to set up Atomic Power Stations with 10 thousand megawatt capacity by 2000 A.D. So it is important to pay attention to it.

The long term Scheme formulated by the Nuclear Power Board in respect of electricity is viable and practical. Therefore, it is essential to provide necessary funds for this. At the same time my suggestion is that the Board should be converted into a Corporation—a public limited one—so that public funds could be mobilised to meet its financial requirements in future. As an important Undertaking in the Public Sector, it can mobilise funds by floating equity shares and through assistance from various financial institutions to overcome its resource constraints and to achieve its aims.

The hon. Member who spoke before me alleged that brain drain was taking place from our country and engineers, scientists and doctors were going abroad. This allegation is not true any longer. At present brain drain from our country is not taking place. Now the repidity with which engineers, doctors and scientists are coming

[Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

back with new technology and experience and are setting up their own units or are contributing in research and development work in different institution, is indeed due to the laudable efforts of our Government. The Department of Science and Technology has set up a new cell to provide necessary facilities to the non-resident scientists and engineers so that they may utilise the benefits of high technology in our country. In this context, I would also like to say, that Shri Patil in his answer to a question on April 2 in the Lok Sabha had said that out of the 25 thousand Indian scientists engineers and doctors registered abroad, about 1900 have already returned and made use of the various facilities offered to them. And we hope that ultimately, the number of non-residents coming back to India would increase from 25 thousand to 50 thousand. The Government should provide all facilities in setting up new industries based on latest technology. It will obviate the need to import need based and appropriate technology into the country on which we spend crores of rupees in foreign exchange. By setting up these units with Government assistance, these non-residents can import technology as per the requirement of the country. These special facilities would largely benefit the non-resident Indian Scientists and engineers. Again, according to the opinion of some of our friends here, the Indians residing abroad do not get adequate information about the facilities being provided to them in India. My duty is to convey this piece of information through the House to you. We can disseminate relevant information in other countries either through our High Commissions or by appointing Scientific Officers or by circulating information bulletins there. This should convince them that they could return and find not merely opportunities for employment but also facilities for setting up their own business. And if they prefer to utilise their knowledge of high-technology in the field of research, the Government of India has formulated plans in this direction also. They would definitely thank the Government for its efforts and help in the progress of science and technology in our country.

So, as an answer to the allegation of how our country is to prepare itself for the

21st century, I would say that it would reach the next century, by bridging the gap between the developed and the developing with the help and support of science and technology. Sir, I wish to reiterate that scientific application are not merely to be used in the cities of Delhi, Bombay and Madras and for only taking those residing in these cities to the 21st century, but also to create necessary conditions for crores of people living in our seven lakh villages to enter the next century. Science must be applied to provide them all those facilities which were denied to them so far. This means that science should be applied for developing the human resources and to assist in the development of the Indian economy.

With these words I would conclude and express my thanks.

[English]

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (Chengalpattu): Sir, on behalf of my party the AIADKM, I rise to make a few suggestions on the demands for grants of the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Electronics, Department of Ocean Development and Department of Space for the year 1986-87.

At the outset, I would take up the Demands of Atomic Energy. The Seventh Plan document provides for a total generation to the order of 10,000 MW of nuclear power by 2000 A.D. I welcome also the provision of Rs. 110 crores in 1986-87 for nuclear power schemes. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to where these nuclear power schemes are going to be implemented. Tamil Nadu has exhausted its available hydel potentiality and the dependence on thermal generation is elusive because of the primary infrastructure of coal not being available within the reaches of such projects in Tamil Nadu. The gap between availability and demand of electric power by the end of Seventh Plan in Tamil Nadu would be about 3,300 million units and by 1994-95 it would be 10,200 million units. Hence I request the hon. Prime Minister for an investment decision for taking up the Atomic Power Project at Kudankulam in Tirunelveli

district and for extension of the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station in view of the long gestation period in the execution of these projects. I would like to suggest that the employees in the atomic power plants should be given a special monthly allowance of Rs. 500 per head because of their susceptibility to radio-active risks. I suggest that the workers and the employees in Kalpakkam Atomic Power plant, who have created international record in nuclear power research, must be given some sort of incentive bonus for their good work.

I would now take up the Demands of the Department of Ocean Development. The grants are being given for studies on Ocean Thermal Energy conversion. India has excellent potential for conversion of ocean thermal energy. The total OTEC potential around India is estimated to be more than 50,000 MW. This must be fully exploited. A half-hearted beginning has been made by commissioning the MECON to prepare a detailed project report for a one-MW OTEC plant. The IIT, Madras has fabricated a small OTEC plant for this purpose. I demand that more attention must be paid to this. There should be effective coordination between the Department of Ocean Development and the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Resources.

Here, I would refer to the laudable effort made by the Government of Tamil Nadu in exploring the possibility of producing energy from tidal waves. There was assistance from a UN body also for this project. Somehow the Government of India have not encouraged the Government of Tamil Nadu by giving grants for this scheme. I demand that this should be taken up more seriously and vigorously.

There was a proposal to set up two pollution monitoring stations in 1985-86 under the Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution Project. I would like to know where these stations have been set up in 1985-86. Tamil Nadu has the longest coastline and one such station should be set up in Tamil Nadu.

Under the Department of Science and Technology, grants-in-aid through the National Radar Council for development of high cost high risk systems in the areas

of command, control communication, security systems, electronic warfare systems etc. are being paid. The electronic warfare systems cannot be researched in the private sector. It is a defence project. I want to know why this should be taken up in the private sector who will be given grants-in-aid by the Department of Science and Technology.

Before I conclude, I would only refer to the scant attention being paid to the application of Science and Technology for Rural Development. In 1985-86, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs was provided and in 1986-87, a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs has been provided. With this meagre sum, do you expect that science and technology will be transferred to rural development for application? I demand that a minimum provision of Rs. 5 crores must be made for this purpose so that the rural development is aided by the successful efforts in our science and technology programmes.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY
(Hindupur) : I bag to move :

"That the demand under the head Atomic Energy Research, Development and Industrial Projects be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to check escalation in the cost of construction of various atomic power stations.](1)

"That the demand under the head Atomic Energy Research, Development and Industrial Projects be reduced Re 1."

[Failure to check inordinate delay in establishing a heavy water plant at Manuguru in Andhra Pradesh.](2)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to make optimum use of science and technology to remove regional imbalances.](1)

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish State Councils for development of science and technology](2)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to encourage promotion of science and technology entrepreneurship](3)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for application of science and technology in the rural sector.](4)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give entrepreneurial training to unemployed science and technology personnel.](5)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to consider the impact of science and technology on increasing unemployment and under-employment.](6)

18.00 hrs.

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to consider the widening gap between rich and poor due to advancement of science.](7)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop the talent for scientific research in youth.](8)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check the migration of scientists from India to abroad](9)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up a Centre for Advanced Technology at Hyderabad.](10)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to popularise science and technology among people.](11)

"That the demand under the head Department of Science and Technology be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up district science and technology centre at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh.](12)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) :
Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ocean Development and Allied Subjects.

Sir, I feel that this is the pious duty of this august House to express its gratitude towards the contribution and towards the scientific temper which has been given to the nation by our first beloved Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who is considered to be the architect of Modern India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Yadav, you can continue your speech tomorrow. The House stands adjourned to reassemble at 11 A.M. tomorrow.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 10, 1986 (Chaitra 20, 1908 (Saka).