

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, May 16, 1990/Vaisakha 26,
1912 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri S. Kandappan who was a member of the Third and Fourth Lok Sabha during 1962-67 and 1967-71, representing Tiruchengode and Mettur constituencies of Tamil Nadu respectively.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Kandappan was a well known social and political worker and took keen interest in rural uplift and social reforms.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Kandappan took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions thereto.

Shri Kandappan passed away at Madras on 11th May, 1990, at the age of 56.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

*(The Members then stood in silence
for a short while)*

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Meeting on Sharing of Krishna Waters

*840. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the latest talks, on sharing of Krishna waters through Telugu-Ganga Project, among Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(b) whether representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources or experts from the Central Water Commission attended the meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The Chief Ministers agreed to meet again in June, 1990 for further discussions.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: The sharing of Krishna waters from the Telugu-Ganga project has been hanging fire for a long time. The recently concluded conference of the three Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra at Tirupathi no doubt is a great landmark in solving this water dispute.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether this Government stand by the letter and spirit of the decisions taken by the Chief Ministers at Tirupathi or whether this Government endorse the decision taken by the previous Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N.T. Rama Rao asserting his right to utilise the surplus water of Krishna till 2000 AD.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: A meeting was convened by my Ministry on 5th April. In the meantime I received one letter from the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Veerendra Patil.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: The meeting was convened on 22nd April.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Please listen to me. A meeting was convened by my Ministry on 5th April here in Delhi. In the mean time I received one letter from the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Veerendra Patil saying that all the three Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have decided to meet themselves and discuss to solve this dispute. They wrote to me that if necessary in future they will request the intervention of the Central Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, the reply is not correct.

Water is a national property and all the rivers belong to this country. Keeping in view the various problems arising out of water disputes throughout the country, may I know from the hon. Minister as to whether this

Government has any plan to set up a National Water Tribunal at national level to solve this problem? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether this Government will come out with certain specific programmes for setting up a National Water Grid in order to ensure fair distribution of surplus waters.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Sir, I should say that the scope of the question is very limited. It pertains only to Krishna Water Tribunal Award. The issue raised by concerned States—whether it is to be resolved or not and what efforts are made to resolve this—is...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: In order to solve the problem, I am just asking the Minister.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Let me submit that Krishna Water Tribunal has already awarded that so much of water should go to Karnataka; so much to Andhra and so much to Maharashtra. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: There is a lot of difference in the Award also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: The issue raised by the concerned States is only for the supply of 15 TMC water to Madras City, for drinking purpose. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: It is not my question. I never asked about Tamilnadu. It is totally different. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Telugu-Ganga Project comprises of two portions. One is the supply of water to Madras; and the second is supply of water to about two lakh acres of land in Rayalaseema. This particular project was started about five or six years back and already an amount of about 300 crores of rupees has been spent on this project. But the project has unnecessarily landed itself into controversy because of the foolhardy

attitude of the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao. The argument of surplus water itself, is very much detrimental to the interest of the States. Right from the time of this projects conception, we were always arguing that Telugu-Ganga Project or whatever the name of the project is, should have the definite assured water which has been awarded inside the Bachawat Award to the State of Andhra Pradesh. There is no ambiguity about this. Even now, we request the hon. Minister, absolutely not to give the clearance for the Telugu-Ganga Project if it is based on surplus water. We have a definite opinion that the Central Government should insist on..

MR. SPEAKER: You please do not explain. Please put the question instead of giving information.

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: I am coming to it. (*Interruptions*) We are requesting the Minister to give positive clearance for this particular project, only if the State Governments assure the committed water under the Bachawat Award. (*Interruptions*) Will the Minister give a categorical assurance that this project will be cleared only if the State Government comes forward with committed water.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: We are prepared to resolve the issue if the State Governments come to us. If all the participants say that we are trying to resolve the issue by ourselves, then, how can I intervene?

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Sir, it is not my question.

MR. SPEAKER: He replied that if all the State Government agree, then he can consider. I think, that is his point.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Sir, the meeting is only an eye-wash.

MR. SPEAKER: Not like that. Shri Naik.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK; Mr. Speaker, Sir, three states are involved in it—Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Incidentally, the Chief Ministers of all these states belong to the Congress Party. However, all the three are not sharing the same view on this issue, and that is unfortunate. Their predecessors sorted out the problem to some extent. But so far as the present Chief Ministers are concerned, they are more interested in delaying it rather than solving it.

My submission is that keeping this fact in view the Central Government should forcefully intervene to hold a meeting in order to take some effective measure and get some positive results. Will the hon. Minister take any step in this regard?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Shri Ram Naik has given a good suggestion.

[*English*]

If the concerned States say that they will solve this problem by themselves, I do not think that the Central Government can intervene in the matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Unfortunately, the hon. Minister is not aware of the full facts regarding this issue. Now, the dispute is not in respect of the water to be supplied to the city of Madras. The three States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have agreed to spare 5 TMC each from their respective shares in the Krishna waters, towards drinking water supply to Madras city. There is no dispute about it. The dispute is about the share of water from the surplus water available. The former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N.T. Rama Rao wanted to use the surplus water for irrigation purposes. But the other States did not agree with his view. In the Federal set-up, such disputes can be settled through negotiations and also good will the Chief Ministers have been meeting in this regard. This dispute has not arisen only yesterday. But, this dispute has been there

since 1952. The Central Government cannot wash off their hands by saying that it is not concerned in this matter and that only the three Chief Ministers should agree to convene a meeting and so on. I am requesting the hon. Minister to call a meeting of all the concerned Chief Ministers and settle the dispute taking to consideration all the aspect of the matter.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Sir, permit me to read a letter written by the Chief Minister of Karnataka. "On 7th April, 1990 you have convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka States to consider the Krishna water dispute. In the circumstances, the question of sharing of Krishna waters need not be taken up for consideration in the meeting convened by you at Delhi on the 7th April, 1990 and the Cauveri waters dispute alone need be considered. After our consideration of the Krishna waters matter, if we feel that your intervention will still be required, we will approach you." Up-till now, we have not received any message from any of the Governments.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTINAVINDHANDRA MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the matter is related to water dispute. Earlier, the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra was kept pending and misconceptions were created about that. The same is true of water dispute. Besides, similar disputes are there with regard to Narmada. I would like to know whether the Central Government intends to take a decision in regard to the water of Krishna river at the earliest? It appears that the hon. Minister himself has no clear idea about it. When he was asked whether any expert from the Ministry of Water Resources was present, his reply was in the negative. I would like to know whether the meeting was meant only for the Chief Ministers of three States, and if not, why the presence of experts was not considered necessary? Secondly, my basic question is why the disputes relating to the river water are kept pending

for years? In view of the fact that this issue is related to the water dispute, will the Central Government try to solve it?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: So far as the question of playing an effective role by this Government is concerned, we do play our role whenever required and the Government has been doing so in the past. Shrimati Jayawanti has raised two-three major issues. The first objection she raised is why no expert from the Central Government was present in the meeting of Chief Ministers. She should be aware that the meeting has been called by the Chief Ministers themselves and not by the Government of India. We were not even invited. Thus that meeting was held only by the Chief Ministers of three States. As I said just now, we were merely told that we could come if we wished and that they were trying to resolve within themselves'. Thereafter it was said that if intervention of Central Government was necessary, then they would approach us. That is why no high ranking official of Central Government was present in the meeting. So far as the distribution of water is concerned about 2060 TMC of water is there in Krishna basin, which has been distributed and the whole of the water is being utilized. Thus there is no question of national wastage. The only point left to decide is the ratio in which the water should be shared by the three States and this issue is still unresolved. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. THAMBI DURAI: The Telugu Ganga project is important not only for Andhra Pradesh, but it is also important for Tamil Nadu State.

AN HON. MEMBER: We have no objection.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: You have no objection, but we are not able to get water. Madras city is facing acute shortage of water. In order to solve this problem the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu all expected get-

ting some surplus water from Krishna river for drinking purposes. But the Ministers here go on telling about bringing Chief Ministers of the various States together for negotiations in order to solve this problem. I do not think, we can solve the problem through negotiations. Recently, our Prime Minister said that it was not possible to solve the inter-State disputes through negotiation, because political problems are involved in different States. Previously when in the last Lok Sabha, we discussed the Telugu Ganga project, most of the National Front constituent Members, Telugu Desam and Janta Dal Members criticised the delay because of political reasons. Now, they are in power. I would like to know how they are going to solve the problem and the madras city gets sufficient drinking water. Also, the Tamil Nadu Government have spent a lot of money on this project.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: I would like to clarify the position that there is no relation between finding out a solution to a problem and to supply water to Madras city. Because...(*Interruptions*) the project of Telugu Ganga Dam is still in progress and about Rs. 306 crores have been spent on the project. Then comes the question of proposed scheme of constructing a canal, the work on which is already in progress. As regards the question whether 20 TMC water should be supplied to Rayalaseema or not, the government of Andhra Pradesh says that they require 29 T.M.C. of water and they will utilise it. So far as other two States—Maharashtra and Karnataka—are concerned they say that as there is not much water, they cannot use it. This is the only issue left to be settled. We are considering the issue of providing 15 TMC water to Madras city separately.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S RAO: Sir, I had told earlier also to please go into the records of the history to save the time of the members as well as the time of the House. We are not

paid for briefing him. The officials are paid for briefing him.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't waste time on that. You please come to the question.

SHRI K.S. RAO: As Mr. Thambi Durai was saying a little while earlier, also during the discussion on the Demands for Water Resources Ministry, I said that the very role of the Ministry of Water Resources is to coordinate in the policy making. But he says that till we ask he will not at all look into the misuse of the water that is there. He will sit in his chair and look at the misuse or lack of water resources. Earlier the entire controversy—which otherwise was not there—was raised because of the ego of Shri N.T. Rama Rao. The then Minister of Water Resources took the initiative and convened a meeting. I wish to bring it to the notice of the House that at that time in spite of his convening the meeting, those Members who are sitting now in the treasury benches made allegations against the Central Government for not solving the problem. On the contrary, now he says that it is not his role.

The water resources has to be utilised by the people, irrespective of the fact whether they are in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra or Tamil Nadu. It is visible that there will be a dispute between each States no matter whether it is ruled by the Janta or the Congress party. The point is that the matter has not yet been solved. So, from all this we can conclude that unless the Government of India, unless the Minister for Water Resources comes forward on his own and takes decision immediately taking the House into confidence, the entire quantity of water is going to be wasted, and will be creating floods and havoc there. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he will change his statement and convene a meeting from the Government of India side in order to solve the problem immediately which is in the interest of the people.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: As written by the Karnataka Minister, they are again meeting in June. So, let them discuss it. If

they fail to arrive at a conclusion or if they request us we will approach them and if necessary definitely we will convene the meeting.

Applications under Retired persons scheme

*841. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether D.D.A recently invited applications under Retired Persons Scheme from persons registered with it under new HUDCO Pattern Scheme, 1979;

(b) whether some cases have come to the notice of the Government where retired persons failed to apply for allotment of a house within the stipulated period due to lack of information of such a scheme; and

(c) whether D.D.A. propose to give one more chance to such persons to enable them to apply for allotment of a flat?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some such representations have been received from persons who failed to apply in time although wide publicity had been given in the Press.

(c) Opportunity to retired/retiring persons is given by DDA from time to time. Those who missed the last opportunity may apply again as and when such applications are invited next.

[*Translation*]

SHRIRAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, DDA had announced a scheme in 1979 under Retired persons' Scheme under which retired employees were supposed to be allotted plots and houses by DDA on priority basis. The employees, who registered their names under this scheme, have been in constant touch with the DDA since 1979. They also took up this matter in 1987 and

1988. In 1989, the Government took a decision and published an advertisement in this regard in some newspapers which went unnoticed by a large number of people and thus they were deprived of this opportunity. I would like to know the time by which the remaining retired employees would be allotted plots/houses on priority basis?

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I have already said in the main reply that from the draws held in November 1988, October 1989 and January 1990, about 145 persons have been left out. Among the 145, 94 applications were cleared for allotment but kept pending due to non availability of category three flats. These are expected to be covered within the current year. There are 51 applications which were found to be either incomplete or from ineligible persons and they have been provisionally rejected. So the balance 94 applicants will be covered during current year itself.

[*Translation*]

SHRIRAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have been assured time and again that they would be allotted flats on priority basis. I would like to know from the hon. Minister a specific period by which flats will be allotted.

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: You know the backlog is not much. It is after all 94. So, within a few months, i.e. within the end of this year, they will be covered.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the total number of persons who registered their names during 1979, the number out of them who were allotted plots/houses during the last ten years and the number of persons who are waiting for allotment. What steps are being taken to cover the remaining per-