

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Monday March 10, 1986
Phalguna 19, 1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Ghair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Technology Mission for Drinking
Water

+

*204. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGA-
LAM :
SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided
to launch a technology mission to provide
safe drinking water to all villages by appli-
cation of science and technology inputs;
and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(S. BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). A state-
ment is given below.

Statement

A Technology Mission on "Drinking
water in villages and Water Management"
has been launched recently with an aim at
finding low cost but equally effective alterna-
tive solutions to capital intensive rural
drinking water schemes by utilising the

science and technology inputs available
within the country. The Technology
Mission would aim at the identification of
the different problem areas and developing
appropriate low cost technology to overcome
these problems through application in the
field. The broad thrust of the technology
development would be low cost water
treatment for fluorides, salinity and brackish-
ness, iron and bacteriological contamina-
tion, improving the ground water condition
through proper recharging as well as
retention of run off, and developing tradi-
tional water retention and collection struc-
tures and making these sources safe for
drinking water by suitable treatment.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier in the year 1983,
to an Unstarred Question No. 64, July
1983 that was raised, it was said that
drinking water supply was a State subject
and that in the Sixth Plan period, efforts
would be made to cover all problem villages
in the country, i.e. on source of drinking
water. Even in the Budget Speech of the
Finance Minister as well as in the Book
issued by the Agriculture Minister entitled
"New Strategies for fighting poverty through
agricultural and rural development in
India", it is admitted that out 4.31 lakh
identified problem villages, only 1.92 lakh
problem, villages were covered.

Now, would this Technology Mission
for Drinking water aid in any way in
ensuring, at least in the 7th Plan period
potable drinking water supply to all villages
irrespective of whether problem village or
not ? Or, is the Mission only going to be
another method of using the term techno-
logy to divert the real intentions ?

S BUTA SINGH: Sir, the Techno-
logy Mission will aid in many ways in the
7th Plan in making the drinking water
available. By the end of 7th Plan it is

2

proposed that every village would have one source of potable water and the whole population of the village would be covered.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : What about hamlets ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Does it include Speaker's also, Sir ?

S. BUTA SINGH : We can launch it from Sikar in Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank You. That is a special treat. Professor, will you approve of it ? It is about my constituency.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We concede that subject to our hamlets being covered.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : My Second supplementary is this. The new Technology Mission is supposed to replace even hand pumps but even the hand pumps are not available. What form of technology are you thinking in the form of supply of drinking water ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, the objective of the new Technology Mission is; firstly to utilise the low cost technology for supplying drinking water to the rural areas. Wherever it is not possible to find water in the local area and there is a compulsion that we have to have piped water, we shall have it. Wherever it is possible, preference will be given to hand pumps because it is not only low cost, but easy to maintain and also, it is available for the whole village. Otherwise, the tapped water is earmarked water supply which Sometimes becomes difficult for some sections of the society in the village. The handpump will continue to have top priority but wherever the water-table has gone so much deep that we will have to go in for alternative, we will do it.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I am sure the Government is aware of the fact that several villages which were listed as problem villages in lists Nos. 1 and 2 in particular, are especially suffering

from florine content, for some of which previously there was some assistance from Netherlands but many of such schemes which were initiated, were not completed and the people in those villages are suffering a lot and the cattle population is also the worst victim.

I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is transferring this new Technology Mission on "Drinking Water in villages and Water Management" to the States to take up this New Technology method whereby speedily, within the shortest time, the problem villages can be assured of safe drinking water.

S. BUTA SINGH : Basically, the Programme is primarily in the States' jurisdiction. We are only helping to the extent that wherever the States find it difficult to find that kind of technology which could be cheap and effective, we have involved all the major Institutes of the country, 7 or 8 of them, including the Defence Research Laboratories which have been placed at the disposal of the Mission. The Mission will be headed by a very Senior Officer, Secretary, Rural Development and all the Organisations which have something to do with the availability of water research and attending to various water borne diseases will be associated, and we propose to have a zonal system in which all the States will be involved. We will place some funds at their disposal. Primarily the States will be implementing the Scheme and our first priority will be to those villages which have spilled over from the Sixth Plan because first priority is to the villages which have no source of drinking water and then after having completed it, we propose to take up towards the end of Seventh Plan to see that no village in the country remains without drinking water supply at least with one source.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many areas which are densely populated and handpump system does not work there. Even if 20 handpumps are installed in each village, it would not be sufficient. Such densely populated areas are there in Hardoi and

Mirzapur districts and the level of water in these areas is very low. It is not possible to supply water to such areas without laying a pipe-line. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would arrange to supply water to such areas on priority basis by laying pipe-lines ?

[English]

S. BUTA SINGH : I answered in the first Supplementary itself that wherever it is not possible to do without piped water, we will have it. But our main emphasis is on the low cost highly effective technology which could reach water to the remote areas of the country. Now the hon. Member is complaining of insufficient supply in villages. But he should think of those villages which get water only once in a week. Naturally, our first priority will go to those very difficult villages where there is no water at all. Where there is scanty water, we can manage. The priority will have to be given to those areas where there is no water at all. Our approach is that towards the end of the Seventh Plan, every one in the rural areas will have drinking water.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, Rajasthan has faced successive droughts in the last four years. You have introduced a very good word "Mission" in this new technology. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when did he launch this 'Mission' and why was it not launched earlier when he knew it involved low cost ? What benefits have been received from it at the places where it has been experimented and to what extent the cost has been reduced as compared to the past ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Since it was not being done earlier, that was why we launched this Mission. Had this been in vogue earlier, there would not have been any need for launching this Mission.

MR. SPEAKER : You may also add that a beginning has to be made somewhere.

S. BUTA SINGH : You are right, Sir.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : When did you come to know of it and when this 'Technology Mission' was launched ?

S. BUTA SINGH : The project document for Technology Mission has already been finalised. Now, we are poised to launch this project after discussing it in a joint meeting of all Departments and Ministries soon. The duration of the project is four years. The date of its commencement is March, 1986 and it will be completed in March, 1990.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It is said 'It has been launched'. This is wrong.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The oral answer conceals the written answer.

[Translation]

Revision of Rates of Royalty on Minerals

*205. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether consequent upon the increase in the prices of minerals no increase has been made in the rates of royalty so far, as required under the rules, resulting in considerable loss of revenue to Government ;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in the matter;

(c) the time by which the rates of royalty are proposed to be revised; and

(d) the likely annual increase in revenue as a result thereof ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (d). The Central Government appointed a Study Group in November, 1984 to consider the question of revision of royalty rates on major minerals and make recommenda-