

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Along with the Janata Government the Committee has disappeared.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Put that question to Prof. Saheb.

SHRI B SHANKARANAND : Sir, I do not want to refer to the Janata Government or any committee which had been set up. But I am really interested in the committee which is looking into the problems of diverting waters of West flowing rivers. We can say that the hon. Member's interest is also our interest and we are thinking of how to utilise this water which is going waste in the sea.

(Translation)

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a question from the hon. Minister regarding Bihar. We have two major projects in Bihar Koylakari project and.....

MR. SPEAKER : I shall permit you if you put a supplementary connected with this question.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Sir, I am putting a supplementary arising out of this question. We have two important projects in Bihar the Koylakari project and the subarnrekha project, on which Government have spent crores of rupees but no work has yet started on them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether special attention will be paid towards these important projects to ensure that work starts thereon.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : We are paying much attention, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you satisfied ?

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Sir, no work is being done on these projects on which Government have spent crores of rupees and here the hon. Minister is replying like this.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Mohandas not present, Shri S.G. Gholap not

present. Shri Giridhar Gomango Last but not the least.

Rehabilitation policy for Displaced Persons due to Construction of Projects

*790. **SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has asked the States to formulate the rehabilitation policy for persons displaced due to medium and major irrigation and power projects on the lines of the guidelines issued by the Government; and

(b) if so, the names of the States which have taken action accordingly ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The Ministry has requested the State Governments that while framing project proposals, satisfactory safeguards for protecting the interests of oustees be kept in view.

Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments. As such, rehabilitation measures as are necessary considering the needs and nature of the problem involved in a particular project are initiated and implemented by the State Governments.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that the Ministry of Home Affairs have formulated guidelines and issued different States regarding implementation of schemes for the persons displaced by the projects. If so, whether on that line, has his Ministry formulated any guidelines to check, at the time of clearing the project to see that the rehabilitation cost should also be taken as one of the components in the project report itself and the displaced persons would be settled in almost all the projects which are implemented by the State.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can understand the hon. Member's

anxiety with reference to certain projects in his State. Where non-implementation of some projects involve submergence of a large area affecting a large number of families, the hon. Members is right in asking these questions.

To this question, I should say that we have formulated certain guidelines and measures for project preparation. We have informed these guidelines to the State Governments for use when they send the projects reports to us for technical clearance. The cost of rehabilitation measures do form part and parcel of the project estimates. The important measures for resettlement of displaced person are definitely given due consideration.

With regard to payment of compensation for land and houses, provision of alternative cultivable land as far as available, employment opportunities on the project works, promotion and collection of forest produce, fisheries and such other economic activities, provision of transportation and rehabilitation grant, provision of house plots, development of new resettlement colonies with amenities such as primary school, panchayat, dispensary, seed store, parks, drinking water supply etc., these things do form part of the rehabilitation measures.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : In Orissa, due to non-implementation of one power project, nearly 150 villages have become just like an island, due to submergence by backwaters and they have been cut off from the mainland.

I would like to know whether the Ministry will ask the Government of Orissa quantify some fund by which the cut-off area will connected by road or by any other method with Orissa.

At present, that area has got connected with Andhra Pradesh and not with Orissa. This is the problem.

I would like to know whether the Central Government would ask the

Government of Orissa to provide some facility.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I do not know whether the hon. Member is referring to any particular project and I notice in this regard.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : The implementation of this rehabilitation programme was not difficult before the year, 1980. But after the promulgation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, it has become a very difficult task for State Government to rehabilitate displaced persons.

So, considering this problem will the Government of India coordinate this problem, especially transferring the forest land to non-forest purpose, for rehabilitation because my district Bastar will affect Inchampath Dam, Bodhghat Hydel Project and Bhopalapatnam Irrigation Project. The whole of South Bastar will be affected and in Bastar. Only forest land is there. The Government is facing lot of difficulty in rehabilitating these displaced persons.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : For any project of such type, it is incumbent on the part of the States to bear certain burdens to see that the project is completed and, for that matter, they have to take certain measures also, as otherwise many villages and large cultivable land and many people would be affected. To that extent, the State Government have to bear the burden.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Through you, Sir, I want to make a submission to the hon. Minister that the Banasagar project, which is a major project, is under construction in my constituency with the joint cooperation of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. One who e teh il and about 60 villages of my constituency will be submerged in it. Their land was acquired about ten years ago but no action has been taken so far to rehabilitate them. Whenever we put questions

regarding the rehabilitation of those persons, there is always a routine reply that it is a State subject, but this is a major project which is being constructed there through you. May I, therefore, know what type of guidelines or directions you are going to issue to the State for the rehabilitation of these people?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have already stated that the cost of rehabilitation measures do form part and parcel of the project estimates.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is all. There is nothing more in this Question.

Rural Electrification in Backward Areas

*774. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the Central Government's consideration to make changes in the criterion fixed for rural electrification schemes in respect of backward and non-backward States;

(b) whether Governments of backward States have approached the Central Government to make the said changes; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Special concessions are already being extended in providing loan-assistance for rural electrification schemes meant for backward and under-developed areas.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that special concessions are already

being extended in providing loan-assistance for rural electrification schemes meant for backward and underdeveloped areas. May I know from the hon. Minister which States are coming under this scheme and uptill now which States have been provided such facilities?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I have not been able to follow...

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know which States have availed of such facilities.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : These facilities are available to all States and Union Territories.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Our State, the State of Orissa, is very poor in respect of electricity; more than 70 per cent of the people are living in rural areas and they do not get the facility of electricity due to shortage of power. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Orissa has sent any proposal for assistance in setting up new projects in Orissa and if so, what is the reaction of the Government to that?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : We have never said 'no' to the proposal from the Government of Orissa in respect of rural electrification programmes and their implementation.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Considering the fact that the Rural Electrification Corporation is earning fairly good profits, will the hon. Minister consider lowering the rate of interest on loan for backward areas?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The backward areas do get loan on concessional rate of interest. If I can give information to the hon. Member, the terms and conditions on which loan assistance is given for rural electrification schemes of tribal areas and Harijan bastis are more favourable as compared to the other areas, specially the underdeveloped areas. The rate of interest is 6—1/4—8—1/4 per cent. The period