

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 2, 1987; Chaitra 12,
1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What has happened today; why the House is giving a deserted look ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : All have run away.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi. Not present.

Shri T. Bala Goud. He is also not here.

Shri Kali Prasad Pandey. Not present.

Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma. He is also not present.

Dr. G.S. Rajhans. I take it for granted that you are always present.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Thank you, Sir.
[Qn. No. 514.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Where is the Minister of Water Resources ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Neither water nor the Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER : He is coming.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you late, Sir ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : You must pull him up.

MR. SPEAKER : First, make amends.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : I am sorry, Sir, I got late I did not think that my Question would come up so soon.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not take it for granted that the other Members would be present.

Irrigation Projects of Bihar Cleared in Sixth and Seventh Plans

*514. DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of medium and major irrigation projects in Bihar which have been given clearance during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the irrigation projects on which construction work has started and the amount spent so far;

(c) whether any target has been fixed to complete the projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d). One major and 13 medium irrigation schemes in addition to one Modernisation scheme were sanctioned, all during the Sixth Plan. The construction work on all the schemes, except Ajanibinath

Scheme, has been started and an expenditure of Rs. 65.12 crores is anticipated upto March, 1987. The scheme targetted for completion in the current Plan are Sindwarni Reservoir, Sonua Reservoir, Suru Reservoir, Latoratu Reservoir, Torlow Reservoir, Nandini Reservoir, Tapkara Reservoir, Dakaranalla Pump Canal Phase II, Nakati Reservoir medium schemes and Kanchi Modernisation Scheme; and those during the Eighth Plan are Auranga Reservoir major scheme, Kansjore Reservoir, Upper Saukh Reservoir and Surangi Reservoir—medium schemes.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : There has been a tremendous cost escalation as regards irrigation projects in Bihar. For example, the original cost of the Kosi Project was Rs. 13 crores and now it is Rs. 282 crores. There is a virtual loot there. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will ensure that the amounts being spent on projects like Kosi Project, Gandak Project or Bagmati Project are properly utilised and are not siphoned off by contractors and engineers? I want to know the system of monitoring.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : What the hon. Member has said is a good thing. It is a suggestion for action.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Coming from the land of Ajanibinath, I want to know the reason for not starting construction there. Can the hon. Minister assure that there will be no cost escalation in the projects he has mentioned in his reply and also that the projects will be completed in time.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The Ajanibinath Pump Canal Scheme envisages lifting of 12.20 cumec of Ganga water at Sultanganj near Ajanibinath temple to provide annual irrigation to an area of 17206 hectares in the Monghyr and Bhagalpur districts of Bihar. The scheme consists of so many things. It is estimated to cost Rs. 16.8 crores. The annual irrigation for Kharif would be about 9514 hectares and for Rabi 7692 hectares. The moment I will be able to say as to why this has been delayed, I will get the information and pass on to the Hon. Member.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I am grateful to the Minister for the details

that he has given about this scheme, much of that we know. We would like to know, which we are interested, since how long this scheme is pending. Why it is not being taken up? What about the Prime Minister's assurance about the escalation of cost in projects—whether it is at the Central Government level or at the State Government level? Who is not willing to do it? Why is it lying for so long?

SHRI B SHANKARANAND : The irrigation projects—whether major or minor—are planned, funded and implemented by the States. If the States have not been able to give the proper project reports, which could be very easily cleared by the CWC, and if they don't provide enough funds for the implementation in their annual plans, perhaps no project can be completed.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, it is a general statement. I would like to know whether it is due to the lack of project report or due to the lack of funds. Where is it lying—whether it is in your file or in the State Minister's file?

MR. SPEAKER : Draw a clear line, that is what he is asking.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : As far as my information goes, the Government of India is not responsible for this.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Who is responsible then?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is doing something for Bihar.....

AN HON. MEMBER : He is doing nothing.

MR. SPEAKER : Is he doing nothing?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : He is doing something. I want to know how many cases in respect of Bihar are pending with him and the time by which the same would be cleared? Which are the other States, the cases in respect of which are pending with him; the number of such cases and the time by which they are going to be cleared?

MR. SPEAKER : It does not arise from the main question.

[English]

SHRI SARAT DEB : I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether along with the enhancement and escalation of rates, particularly in Bihar, the cost benefit ratio is also being calculated or not. If so, what are the results ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : No project is cleared without the cost benefit ratio being calculated and approved by the CWC and the Technical Advisory Committee. The cost benefit ratio varies from project to project depending upon various factors.

SHRI SARAT DEB : My question is not answered Sir. When the cost of construction is going up, that you are approving; at the time of the initiation, at the time of estimate the cost benefit ratio is worked out. I would like to know whether after the expenditure goes up, the cost benefit ratio is worked out or not.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The cost benefit ratio is not worked out every year. It is worked out at the time of the clearance of the project. But the escalation takes place due to various factors.

[Translation]

SHRI KUNWAR RAM : The Kosi Project was started after we attained Independence and so many years have since passed. It appears that it will never be completed. (Interruptions) This is a comment. (Interruptions) The cost of this project has now risen to Rs. 200 crores and it is nowhere near completion. Will the hon. Minister please state whether some provision has been made to complete it or not ? Secondly, Upper Sakari Project was sent by the Bihar Government to the Centre for approval in the years that followed after Independence. It has recently been finalized and the hon. Minister has stated that it is going to be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. I want to know whether its first phase is being included or the final phase ?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : As far as Kosi is concerned it consists of four main parts, viz., Kosi High Dam which is mainly in Nepal; Kosi Barrage; Kosi Western Canal and Kosi Eastern Canal. Kosi High Dam is under negotiation between Nepal and India and we hope that something will turn out. As regards Kosi Eastern Canal the work on the Eastern Kosi Canal system was started in 1959. It was opened for irrigation in 1964 through partially completed irrigation system. The irrigation potential of Eastern Kosi Canal is 4.34 lakh ha. A potential of 3.74 lakh ha. has been created by the end of 1984-85. The works executed till March, 1985 has been considered as Phase-I of the Project. The balance works are to be implemented as Kosi Eastern Canal Phase-II. The estimates are under the consideration of the CWC.

As regards western Kosi canal project the latest cost of Indian portion works to Rs. 282.21 crores. Nepal reach of works since completed in 1985 at a cost of Rs. 60.46 crores. India portion 56 Km. reach works were taken up and 40 Km. reach has been completed. Out of 70 structures, 26 have been completed, 16 are in progress, 4 under tendering and the rest 24 are under designs, etc. Outlay proposed in 1986-87 is Rs. 35 crores.

[Translation]

SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no reply has been given in regard to the Upper Sakari Project.

MR. SPEAKER : You can call for information; he will send it to you.

[English]

Functional Autonomy to Vice-Chancellors

*515. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI† :
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Association of Indian Universities consisting of Vice-Chancellors