

included in the Seventh Plan itself. It is a question of priority. So it does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Inter-State Projects as National Projects

*247. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT†:

SHRI MANIK REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to declare Inter-State irrigation projects as national projects;

(b) whether it is proposed to take over Rajasthan Canal, Telgu Ganga and Polavaram Projects as national projects; and

(c) if so, the plan drawn up for this purpose and if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was very much distressed after listening to the reply of the hon. Minister especially when we are facing a grave drought situation. He knows that our ground water flows into the rivers and the sea. There are many States whose financial position does not allow them to complete these projects. Therefore, why do the Government not pay attention towards inter-state projects, especially towards the project of the Rajasthan Canal, which is the Bhagirani of Rajasthan, the Mahi Project and Telugu Ganga and Palavaram projects in the south. What is the difficulty in declaring these projects as national projects?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: You do understand, but they do not understand.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you satisfied with the reply of Shri Tulsiram?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am pained to hear that the hon. Member was distressed.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Both of you go out and lessen your distress.

MR. SPEAKER: You are distressed because of the question and she because of the reply.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I can say with regret that we do not have funds in the central sector to spend on taking over any project.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Ours is mainly an agricultural country and we should think of according priority to irrigation projects. If you cannot declare them as national projects, then at least tell me whether there is any proposal to provide any additional assistance for the Rajasthan Canal? Presently Rajasthan is facing a grave situation and we have been holding discussion on it for the last many days. Will the Rajasthan canal known as the Indira Gandhi Canal not be completed for years together? Do you propose to allocate more funds for this project which is very useful?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The original question is whether Government propose to declare inter-state projects as national projects? To this I have replied that at present there are no funds in the central sector.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Bring from the Swiss banks please.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The question is whether the centre can do something

to declare the state projects as national projects. The suggestion is very good but we have not funds.

It is for the National Development Council to think about declaring any project as a national projects. If any changes are called for in the planning process in this regard, that will be done. The financial project will have to be looked into and the Planning Commission will be required to think about it. Only then these questions would arise.

AN HON. MEMBER: What will you do?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I cannot do anything.

[English]

SHRI MANIK REDDY: What are the facilities extended by the Government of India to complete Telgu Ganga and Palavaram projects in Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, I have already told that Palavaram and Telgu Ganga are not at all national projects. They are projects prepared by the State Governments. The Telgu Ganga Project is being implemented even without clearance by the Central Water Commission and the Planning Commission.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given a very curt reply: "No, Sir. Does not arise." I would like to ask a plain question to the hon'ble Minister: Is it not a fact that this question involves not only the question of financial constraints but also the question of reconciling the regional aspirations with the national aspirations of integration. Sir, is it not a fact that amongst the number of neighbouring States, such disputes regarding river water or irrigation projects are coming up and as a result of that unnecessary and avoidable bitterness is created? In order to avoid that and see that the legitimate regional aspirations are reconciled with the national aspirations will he take a special precaution to see that such projects are made national projects so that dis-

putes can be ended and at the same time the economic development of the neighbouring States can be achieved.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes. Yes.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, there is a considerable force in what the hon. Member has said.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Even then, he will reply, no, Sir.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Almost all the major rivers in this country are inter-state rivers. Unless we take up the river basin development as whole without limiting to the concept of development to the limitations of State boundaries perhaps these problems cannot be solved. For this purpose, Sir, perhaps I may inform the House that this aspect, specially the aspect of water resources development in the States, is a State subject, but management of inter state water development is left with the Centre. Perhaps, we need some examination as to how the States can go in surrendering the rights over their waters for the overall development in the national interest. That is the main point. I may inform the hon. Members that very soon, the National Water Policy is coming into being and the National Water Council is going to meet on eighth on next month. We have almost agreed to develop the water resources as if they are for the total development and these things can be considered at that time.

SHRI M. Y. GHORPADE: May I ask the hon. Minister whether he would agree that this is a vital question and it need not be confined to inter State rivers or projects? Would he agree that there are very very important projects in different States, which cannot be completed in the foreseeable future and they happen to be located in drought prone areas, to give an example, the upper Krishna project in Karnataka. We are all aware that there is no provision for this at present. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, as a Minister he would support in principle the concept of including

such vital projects which have no chance of being completed within the State Plans as Central or National projects atleast in the Eighth Plan or in the second half of the Seventh Plan. Would he support that principle?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He would support the principle and reject it in practice.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, it is a question of defining the criteria for taking up the project as a national project. perhaps, the hon. Member is suggesting one of such criteria.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of Baroda-Ratlam Railway Line

*248. **SHRI C. D. GAMIT:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the work of electrification was started between Baroda and Ratlam on Western Railway, and the details in regard to the present stage of the work;

(b) the time by which this work is likely to be completed and electrification will be introduced between Baroda and Ratlam; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to introduce soon an electric train from Bombay to Ratlam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Electrification of Baroda-Ratlam section was approved in 1979-80 Works Programme. Electrification works on the section have already been completed and the section was energised in stages by Nov., 86.

Electric traction on the Baroda-Ratlam section has been introduced in stages as under:

| | | <u>Date of Introduction</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Goods Traffic | | 15.7.86 |
| Passenger Traffic | | 6.12.86 |
| | Mail and express trains | |
| | | 21.12.86 |
| | For others. | |

SHRI C. D. GAMIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways for completing the electrification work speedily on the Baroda-Ratlam Railway section soon after taking over the charge of railways. Previously this work was being executed very slowly. Delhi and Bombay are two important cities of the country. Excepting the Rajdhani Express, the other trains take more than 26 hours. Due to this, the passengers have to face a lot of difficulties. Keeping all these difficulties in view, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which electrification work on Ratlam-Mathura railway line will be completed and the electric trains will start running?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The electrification work on the Western Railways will be completed during this financial year.

SHRI C. D. GAMIT: The Surat-Bhusawal railway line comes under the Western Railway. Iron ore and steel are transported to Gujarat by this railway line. It is a very important line. Is there any proposal with the Railway Ministry to electrify this railway line?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The electrification work in Itarsi, Bhusawal and Durg sections is covered under the plan. But this question relates to the Western railway route instead of Bhusawal. If the hon. Member wants a detailed information in this regard, I will certainly submit it.

[*English*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What is the total kilometerage covered by electrification in the Indian Railways and how many