

2491 Demands for Grants VAISAKHA 13, 1884 (SAKA) Major and Medium 2492
(Railways) Irrigation Projects

Laxmi Bai, Shrimati
Malaichami, Shri
Malhotra, Shri Inder J.
Mathur, Shri Harish Chandra
Mehdi, Shri S. A.
Mehrotra, Shri B. B.
Minimata, Shrimati
Mirza, Shri Bakar Ali
Mishra, Shri Bibhuti
More, Shri S. S.
Mukherjee, Shrimati Sharda
Muthiah, Shri
Naidu, Shri V. G.
Naik, Shri Maheswar
Nanda, Shri
Nayn, Dr. Sushila
Nesamony, Shri
Nigam, Shrimati Savitri
Niranjan Lal, Shri
Pande, Shri K. N.
Pant, Shri K. C.
Patel, Shri Chhotubhai
Patel, Shri Man Singh
Patel, Shri N. N.
Patel, Shri P. R.
Patil, Shri S. K.
Patil, Shri T. A.
Patil, Shri V. T.
Patil, Shri Vasantrao
Pattabhi Raman, Shri C. R.

Raghunath Singh, Shri
Raju, Shri D. B.
Ram Sewak, Shri
Ram Subhag Singh, Dr.
Ramaswamy, Shri S. V.
Rane, Shri
Rao, Shri Jaganath
Rao, Shri K. L.
Rao, Shri Krishnamoorthy
Rao, Shri E. Madhusudan
Rao, Shri Ramapathi
Rao, Shri Ramaeswar
Rao, Shri Thirumala
Rawandale, Shri
Reddiar, Shri
Reddi, Shri K. C.
Sahu, Shri Rameshwar
Saigal, Shri A. S.
Samanta, Shri S. C.
Sarojini Bindurao, Shrimati
Satyabhama Devi, Shrimati
Satyanarayana, Shri
Sen, Shri A. K.
Shakuntala Devi, Shrimati,
Sham Nath, Shri
Shastri, Shri Lal Bahadur
Shinde, Shri
Shree Narayan Das, Shri
Shrimati, Dr. K. L.

Siddananappa, Shri
Singh, Shri K. K.
Singh, Shri R. P.
Singh, Shri S. P.
Singh, Shri Y. D.
Sinha, Shri B. P.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan
Sinha, Shrimati Tarkeshwari
Sinhasan Singh, Shri
Sonavane, Shri
Soundaram Ramachandran
Shrimati.
Subramaniam, Shri C.
Subramanayam, Shri T.
Swamy, Shri M. P.
Swaran Singh, Shri
Tahir, Shri Mohammad
Thimmaiah, Shri
Thomas, Shri A. M.
Tika Ram, Shri
Tiwary, Shri D. N.
Tiwary, Shri K. N.
Tula Ram, Shri
Upadhyaya, Shri Shiva Dutt
Valvi, Shri
Verma, Shri B.
Verma, Shri K. K.
Vyas, Shri Radhelal
Wasnik, Shri Balkrishna
Yadava, Shri B. P.

Mr. Speaker: The result of the division is:

'Ayes' 42, 'Noes' 141. The Cut Motions are lost.

The Cut Motions were negatived.

Mr. Speaker: Now I can put all the other Cut Motions together.

All the other cut motions were also put and negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,84,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st

day of March, 1963, in respect of Demand No. 1—Railway Board."

The motion was adopted.

17.25 hrs.

MAJOR AND MEDIUM IRRIGATION PROJECTS*

Shri Yallamanda Reddy (Markapur): Sir, out of the answers given on the 30th April to Starred Question No. 286 regarding major and medium irrigation projects, some important factors came to the notice of the House. Under the First and Second Plan periods, we had spent nearly Rs. 670 crores under irrigation which create 12.9 million acres irrigation potentiality by 1961-62. But, out of that only 9.8 million acres were brought under cultivation. That is, there is a short-fall of 3 million acres. This is not the first

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time. Every year, we see the same results. It is:

	Potential at channel outlets	Utilisation (net)
1955-56	6.5 million acres	2.9 million acres
1956-57	7.3 "	3.4 "
1957-58	8.1 "	4.9 "
1958-59	9.6 "	5.9 "
1959-60	11.7 "	7.4 "

In 1960-61, out of 14 million acres potentiality that has been created, only 9.0 million acres are brought under cultivation.

Therefore, in spite of the fact that we are investing so much money on these projects and also in spite of the fact that we are creating irrigation potentiality of so many acres, we are unable to bring all these lands into irrigation, because the Government failed to take proper care to bring all this potentiality into irrigation. For instance, potentiality means, they build reservoirs, they excavate channels and they dig even smaller channels. Only the feeder channels will be left. The policy of this Government is that the feeder channels must be excavated by the ryots themselves. Because of this, under so many projects, the ryots could not do it in time and they are unable to bring these lands into irrigation. We can see from these figures that nearly 33 or 35 per cent. of the land is not brought under cultivation because of this policy of this Government. In so many States, the Government insists that the ryots should dig these channels, that is the feeder channels and they say that it is not the concern of the Government. The Government insists on that. Because the ryots could not do that, they could not bring these lands under cultivation. Besides betterment levies, besides taxation, besides capital investment to bring new lands under cultivation, the ryots are asked to invest more to dig these feeder channels. Therefore, because of the policy of this Government 30 to 35 per cent. of the land is not being brought under cultivation. This is a heavy loss to the nation. Food production which could have been increased more

under irrigation, if the Government take initiative, has been lost.

I can give so many examples. Take the case of the Tungabhadra project. That was built in 1954. But we know that even after ten years or eleven years since then, even 50 per cent. of the lands is not being irrigated. In the Tungabhadra low level canal, the whole work has been completed, and channels have been dug, but because the feeder channels are not there, even 30 to 40 per cent of the land is not being irrigated now. This has meant a huge loss to the nation. The reservoir was completed in 1954-55, but only 11.9 per cent. of the land was cultivated in that year; in 1955-56, only 21.6 per cent. of the land was cultivated, and in 1956-57, only 11.7 per cent. of the land was cultivated, and in 1957-58, only 27 per cent of the land was cultivated. In spite of the fact that this project is meant to cater to the famine-stricken areas, in Rayalaseema in spite of the fact that the people living in those areas have not even water to drink, still, we find that because of the policy of the Government, the ryots have not been able to irrigate all the lands. Even after the completion of the canal, even after the completion of the project, in spite of the fact that the Rayalaseema area is a famine-stricken area, the Government could not bring under cultivation even 50 per cent. of the land, under the Tungabhadra low level canal because the Government did not give sufficient money to the ryots.

The same thing is true in regard to the K. C. Canal also. This canal was also started in a very seriously famine-stricken area, but because Government have not taken special care to look into this matter, all the irrigation potentialities could not be translated into cultivation so as to give more incentive to the ryots for greater production.

Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh, the Krishna Barrage was also completed about four years back, but because Government did not take care of the

canals, hardly 20,000 to 22,000 acres are being cultivated there, and the rest of the 80,000 acres or so are not being cultivated.

I would submit that when Government plan these projects, they must take care not only to build the reservoirs, but they should also see it that all the lands which should be brought under cultivation, are brought under cultivation as soon as possible, so that the necessary results may be had as quickly as possible. But what happens is that Government, when they plan, plan only for the construction of the reservoir and the main channels, and they do not take into consideration how much money should be invested on the canals, feeder channels, how much should be spent on supplying manure, tractors, bulldozers etc. to the farmers and so on. Government must have a thorough plan in regard to all these things including the financial commitment on the various items, before they take up a project. It is because Government did not have a plan of all these things, that they have not been able to ensure that all the land is brought under cultivation to the required extent, for which sufficient water potentiality has been created.

I would suggest that when a project has been planned, Government must take into consideration the socio-economic conditions, agro-economic survey, rural credit to the ryots, roads required in the fields, social surveys, localisation of the *ayacut* and so on, and a development committee should also be there to look into all these things. At present, many of the ryots do not know which of their lands are going to be included under a particular project or under a particular *ayacut*. There is no ready and quick localisation of the land under projects. The result is that Government are not able to bring into use in full the irrigation potentialities that have been created, and this means a huge loss to the country as well as to the ryots.

As I said earlier, in Andhra Pradesh, three or four important projects have

been completed, such as the Tungabhadra low level canal, the KC Canal, the Krishna barrage and so on; yet, even after five or six years, the whole land which was expected to be cultivated has not been brought under cultivation, in spite of the fact that there is a famine even this year in those areas. Why should Government not take special care and see that some amount is invested on this, so that those lands could be brought under cultivation, and we can enhance the food production?

Year after year, we are importing foodgrains from America and we are spending a sum of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 crores on this score. Instead of spending this huge sum on imports, let us spend some amount on these projects, and we can immediately bring those lands under cultivation, and these can yield greater results.

Of course, the hon. Minister may give the answer that we are importing, because there is a deficit and we are not investing on the canals because we have not got sufficient money for that purpose. This is the old answer. We must break this vicious circle somewhere, and see that all those lands coming within the purview of projects which have been completed are brought under irrigation immediately so that food production may increase and the ryots' income may also increase.

17.35 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter, call a conference of Irrigation Ministers of States to achieve this object. I also request him to apply his mind to the question of allotting some money for a developmental fund for this purpose. We are creating so many funds like that. This will be meant for bringing those lands under irrigation which are within the area of completed projects. The Government should also constitute committees for big projects

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to deal with this matter and give encouragement to the ryots to bring under irrigation all those lands as soon as possible. I hope he will expedite the matter. Unless it is done, there is no use of our investing so much money on these projects and there will be no use at all telling people to grow more food, grow more food.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Only those hon. Members who have given notice can ask a question. The hon. Member has not given notice.

Shri Nambiar: We have half an hour. We have time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Minister.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): I have heard the speech of the hon. Member with attention and tried to find out exactly what was meant by this discussion which had been asked for. From what I have heard from him, he has a complaint in regard to particular localities, not in general.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: No, that is not so.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: The notice is in general terms in regard to the utilisation of the irrigation potential created. I took it to mean that I have to deal with the position in the various places taking the country as a whole.

So far as the particular case mentioned by the hon. Member is concerned, I promise that I shall look into that. I will take it up and ask the State about it; I will have discussion with him, if necessary and get more information from him.

But as far as the utilisation of irrigation potential in the country as a whole is concerned, it has been progressing well and continuously as a whole. I will just give a few figures

There is one essential thing which we must remember in this connection. This subject is a State subject. So whatever the Centre can do by way of advice, request and other things which are available, we may do. Otherwise, everything depends upon the attitude taken and interest evinced by the State itself. This should not be taken to mean that I am speaking against any particular State. I am speaking generally.

The position regarding utilisation of irrigation facilities from 1955-56 up to 1960-61 is as follows.

	Potential at channel outlets	Gross irrigated area
	(in million acres)	
1955-56	6.5	3.1

Shri Yellamanda Reddy: That is gross utilisation. Net utilisation is only 2.9 million acres. For the information of the hon. Minister I may say that I have read the statement.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: My figure is wrong?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He says he had read that statement. He is referring to the shortfall.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: I have only stressed the shortfall.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: The point is that the utilisation of irrigation in this country has been progressively increasing. At that time it was 3.1, then it became 8.3 and for 1961-62 it is 9.8. It has gone up much, and it is going to increase to 12.9 this year.

These are figures which come from the States where this irrigation is used by the tenants generally. The information comes to us from them. So, as far as the position as a whole in India is concerned, it is in my opinion satisfactory, but it does not mean that we should do nothing more. We should also do more, whatever we can. We have issued instructions, we have sent requests, set up committees for

this to make enquiries from the various States and collect material. There is no time for me to read out the whole thing here. I have got all the material with me, but it will take time. If the hon. Members are prepared to listen to that, I am prepared to read it also to this House, all the information which is with me, but the net result of that information is that there has been increase. The position has been increasing.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: On a point of clarification, Sir. The Minister is misunderstanding the statement as well as this increase. There is also increase in potentiality. In 1955-56 the potential was only 6.5 million acres. In 1960-61 it is 14 million acres. I may submit for the benefit of the hon. Minister that the shortfall is increasing. The shortfall between potential created and actual irrigation was 0.7 in 1955-56; in 1957-58 it was 0.8; in 1958-59 it was 0.5; in 1959-60, it was 1.2.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not more a matter for the State Governments?

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Though the schemes are being implemented by the State Governments, the crux of the problem lies in the hands of the Central Government, because the money and also the sanction must come from the Central Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Everything is provided in the Plan, and if the State Governments do not act up to it, it is a matter to be agitated in the State Assembly.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: I have been in touch with all these projects in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly for the last ten years. Whenever there is a question, they say there is an aunt sitting in Delhi; she must give permission.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: My hon. friend over there is not correct in saying that I am sitting in Delhi. I go to each and every State. I visit the places. I see the conditions there and

try to acquaint myself with them, and also to do what I can in connection with them.

As far as my hon. friend's interpretation of this figure is concerned, it is obviously wrong as anything. It is quite wrong. What I have said is correct, that it has been increasing every year up till now, and is reaching 12.9 this year. I can read all the figures here.

Shrimati Vimla Devi (Eluru): He has got them.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Both are the same.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: No, Sir. The figures generally are prepared by the Government agencies, the information is with the Government agencies, with the Irrigation Departments, with the officers in the States. If he has got from somewhere else, that figure cannot be relied upon, and my figure cannot be disbelieved. This is the figure which is accepted everywhere, and nobody in the country has so far taken exception to it, and nobody has falsified it. How can I believe that the figures which I am quoting are wrong?

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Both are the same; these are the figures taken from the research section of the Central Water and Power Commission.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: If there is no dispute about the figures then I say here in this House with courage that nobody in India could say that there has been any reduction. It has been increasing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: His complaint is that the pace is slow.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: That is also not correct; the pace is not slow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He says also that the potential has been increasing but that has not been fully utilised.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: My hon. friend had perhaps nothing to do with irrigation, how it is done and it develops, what is to be done in connection with irrigation projects and utilisation. All these things could be known to people who are in contact with them. To be only a Member and know everything is not possible. I do not believe that my hon. friend's figures are correct or his interpretation is correct. The whole of India has

accepted these figures . . . (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The discussion is over.

17-47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May, 4th, 1962/Vaisakha 14, 1884 (Saka).
