

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Manday, May, 7, 1979 | Vaisakha 17,
1901 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.*

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Protection Belt in Cyclone Prone Areas

*1011. SHRI SARAT KAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding decision on the proposal for creating a protection belt in the cyclone-prone areas of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; and

(b) amount earmarked for this purpose as well as the progress in this regard during 1978-79?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) After the devastating cyclone in Andhra Pradesh in 1977, it was felt that some action is necessary to lessen the fury of cyclones. The experience in Andhra Pradesh was that where there were reasonably wide belt of Casuarina plantations, it had withstood and moderated the fury of the cyclone to a large extent and saved some valuable land

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and property. Considering the above, a decision to raise shelter belts along coastal areas in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was taken in a meeting of the Southern States held at Madras on February 13, 1978. The scheme was to be financed to the extent permissible by way of central grant under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Reforestation of Degraded Forests and Raising of Shelter belts. Under this scheme, first priority was to be given to planting up coastal lands with Casuarina, backed by coconut and cashew, where possible, on available Government lands along the coast; the total width was to be 100 metres to about 1 km., depending on the availability of land. Casuarina was to be planted at 2m x 2m. The scheme was sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu in 1978-79 itself.

(b). The central assistance earmarked to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu for 1978-79 was as under:

| | Lakhs |
|--------------------------|--|
| Andhra Pradesh | 24.30 (subsequently revised to 11.60 lakhs on request of the State.) |
| Orissa | 78.00 |
| Tamil Nadu | 30.00 |

Releases for the 1st quarter were made at one-fourth of the above outlay. Further releases were dependent upon the progress of works.

Total amounts released during the year was as under:

| | Lakhs |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 6.00 |
| Orissa | 60.00 |
| Tamil Nadu | 7.50 |

Reports of actual physical achievements over the full year 1978-79 are awaited from the States.

The scheme has since been transferred from the Centrally Sponsored Sector to the State Sector.

SHRI SARAT KAR: First of all, I thank and congratulate the Janata Government for their having put up a laudable programme to check and lessen the fury of cyclone in the cyclone-prone areas. In the statement the hon. Minister has stated that the scheme was to be financed to the extent permissible by way of central grant under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Reforestation of Degraded Forests and Raising of Shelter belts'. He has also mentioned that the scheme has since been transferred from the Centrally Sponsored Sector to the State Sector. May I know whether the Central Government will pay as much as the State will need to make the scheme a success? Since it has been transferred to the State, it is just possible that the Centre may shift its responsibility to the State. In Orissa, valuable land has already been encroached on and the forests have been destroyed by refugees and other persons. Now, they will need more funds. I would like to know whether only the permissible grant will be allowed or some more grant will be given to make the scheme a success.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I have mentioned that it has now been transferred to the State sector, the States will have to look after the scheme. It is a very good scheme and of course it has taken root and it is progressing well. We will request the State Government to pay more attention to this scheme.

SHRI SARAT KAR: Since this scheme has now been transferred to the State, I would like to know whether the State will be accountable to the Centre or any officials would be deputed to know the progress and review the scheme and recommend further grants.

I also want to know whether a report on this would also be laid on the Table of the House or the Central Government would make it available to the Members, because it is a national issue. By this, we will know how the cyclone belt is being protected.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The State Governments are not accountable that way for every scheme to the Central Government. They have to make their own allocation and according to their own priority within the total funds allotted to them. But I think this is a scheme which should be given necessary priorities by the coastal States to these areas and I hope that they will do so.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Since the scheme is drawn for the cyclone-prone areas, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he feels that the State Governments can cope with the proposals. The hon. Minister would be knowing that particularly in Rannad District, Danushkoti and Ramswaram are the cyclone prone Towns and they are affected by Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. Very often these areas are affected due to cyclone. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Central Government can directly take up this scheme and I want the hon. Minister to look into it so that these areas are protected.

MR. SPEAKER: The details have been given in the statement.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The details have been given in the statement also. Immediately after the cyclone, we had taken up this matter, and after discussion with the State Government, this scheme was taken up thinking that it was a priority scheme. So, some work was started immediately. But, now, on the insistence of the State Governments that some allocation should go to them, most of the schemes should be transferred to the States. So, under that, it has gone to the States completely.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: When the cyclone came in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and other places, there was difficulty of protecting them; and the responsibility was not clearly defined. So, many difficulties came. There was a criticism against the States by the Central Government and against the Central Government by the States. Therefore, will the hon. Minister come before the House with a legislation to mitigate the natural calamities like cyclone, drought and other things?

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It is regarding shelter belts.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: It may be shelter belts.

MR. SPEAKER: Law is a different thing. You can put the question.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH: Due to cyclones, the internal areas like supply channels and canals have been very much affected during the time of cyclones. Under the proposed scheme for creating a protected belt, are these canals, supply channels also included, if so, what are the areas that have been included in Andhra Pradesh, and what is the amount that has been earmarked for protecting these supply channels and the internal canals that are likely to be affected by the cyclone?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: This was regarding protection belt along the coastal line, so it is not for interior or protection of canals or the communication system, but only on the coastal belt.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH: The recent cyclones which occurred in Andhra Pradesh had taken place in the coastal area. Almost all the supply channels, canals that are feeding channels for the fields had been damaged; and that is the real damage that has been caused to a large number of people.

MR. SPEAKER: A different scheme would be necessary for that.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH: Is there any such scheme even for such channels, supply channels and feeding canals to give them protection in future at least?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: There is no such scheme so far for these channels and protection bunds.

SHRI PADMACHARAN SAMANTASINHERA: In 1971 in Orissa in the cyclone thousands of people died. Is there any proposal or scheme for Orissa to protect saline water and cyclones also?

MR. SPEAKER: You are widening the area. This is a very limited question.

SHRI PADMACHARAN SAMANTASINHAR: The Government of Orissa gave a scheme how to protect from cyclone also and saline water.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Under that scheme also, this was protecting the interior area from cyclone because this is a belt of Casuarina and thereafter coconut and cashewnut—from 100 metres to a kilometre. This belt of afforestation along the sea coast would protect the interior areas also from cyclones, because fury of cyclones was borne by these protected belts.

मध्य प्रदेश के पिछड़े जिलों में डाक व दूरसंचार सुविधाएं

* 1022. श्री बलपत सिंह परस्ते : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के उन जिलों के क्या नाम हैं जहाँ सरकार का विचार प्राथमिकता के आधार पर डाक व दूरसंचार सुविधाएं प्रदान करने का है ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उसका क्या कारण है ?