

MR. SPEAKER : That is the problem.

#### Teesta Barrage Project

\*412. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of a new Teesta Project undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh the project undertaken by the State Government of West Bengal needs early completion; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken at central level for early completion of the Teesta Barrage Project ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The Teesta and the Mahananda Barrages are almost complete and the work on the Canals is in progress. The Project is being monitored by Central Water Commission and the Plan outlay for 1986-87 is also earmarked.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Sir, Teesta is the only dependable source of water in North-East. The project was undertaken in 1976 and when completed it would irrigate 7.5 lakh acres during the Kharif season and 4 lakh acres during the Rabi season. Uptill now, the Government of West Bengal has spent Rs. 160 crores over the project and the Central assistance is only Rs. 5 crores. Now the Government of West Bengal has estimated that it would require Rs. 400 crores for the completion of the project. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Working Group of the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 221 crores for the completion of the project during the Seventh Plan. If it is true, what is the actual allocation ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is very true that the project is being revised quite often and its cost is more than Rs. 400 crores as estimated today. Originally it was estimated at 69 odd crores and it was approved also. But may I tell the House that the project did not receive the attention that it deserved from the State Government and enough allocations were not made by the

State Government ? And that is the reason for its not being completed.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUDHIR ROY : The State Government has spent about Rs. 160 crores whereas the Central Government has spent Rs. 5 crores. My supplementary is this. What is the allocation of the Central Government in the Seventh Five Year Plan ? What is the actual allocation ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you let me handle the problem ?

(Interruptions)

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKFR : He is asking about your contribution, what is Centre's contribution ? Will you stop at Rs. 5 crores or will you increase it ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Our contribution is.....

MR. SPEAKER : Is that all ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It will be even less than that.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU : Is he the Minister of Water or a Minister of Deserts ?

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What about you ? You have almost finished West Bengal.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : She is in charge of West Bengal here in this House.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It needs a little elaborate answer so that the House will know as to what has been the performance of the State Government in implementing the project.

MR. SPEAKER : How long will you like to take ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I won't take much time.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We are not here to discuss the performance of the State Government. We should discuss the performance of the Central Government and not the State Government. The State Assembly is there. They will discuss it certainly.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : May I tell the Hon. Members first that the projects are formulated, planned, funded and implemented by the State Government ? That is the first thing that the Hon. Members should know before they put any questions. They are formulated by the States; they are funded by the States; and they are implemented by the States. From this angle, what has been the performance in 1983-84 ? The Centre did give Rs. 5 crores.

SHRI ANIL BASU : He is not answering the question.. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How much assistance was given by the Central Government ?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basudeb Acharia, who has given you the floor ? Have I allowed you ? Take cognizance of the fact that Dr. Roy is on his feet and he is asking the questions. Let him answer. If there is any discrepancy, he will point out. I do not like your doing it. I am not satisfied about it. I think that Mr. Roy is quite competent to take cognizance of that fact and I am quite competent myself to look after the interests of Shri Sudhir Roy.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : Don't get up and talk ! Keep sitting and then ask.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, perhaps I thought, the Hon. Member knew their State's position as regards the allocation of funds made for major and medium irrigation projects. With regard to this project, the allocation is Rs. 131.10 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Now let me you what has been the financial performance,

MR. SPEAKER : This was the provisional plan.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The House must know what is being done.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : He is asking you, please reply.

MR. SPEAKER : This was the provisional estimate ? This was the first estimate ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : No, no. In the first estimate, it was Rs. 69.72 crores. This is the revised estimate. I am speaking about the Seventh Five Year Plan allocation. But what has happened in 1986 ? Let us see whether the State has been providing enough funds for it and are they spending it, that I must tell the House. In 1983-84, the State Government asked for Central assistance and Rs. 5 crores was provided to them, over and above, Rs. 28 crores to be spent by the State Government with the understanding that the total expenditure of the project during that year would be Rs. 33 crores. But do you know what has happened ? The actual expenditure incurred on this project during 1983-84 was only Rs. 25.52 crores. Even whatever they had been provided, they did not spend that.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Again you are doing the something. Why don't you let him answer that question ? You are spoiling the whole show. You are spoiling the whole question. Did you spent Rs. 5 crores also from your side ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Beg your pardon.

MR. SPEAKER : You had also given them Rs. 5 crores.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : They spent less.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : No, no, we are not spending.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : How do you say that they have spent your amount or their amount ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** The total expenditure incurred, that is what I am saying. I am not saying whether they spent the Central money or their money. What was the total kitty available for their State? Now in 1984-85, the State Government had requested for the Central assistance to the of Rs. 18.5 time crores.....

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** How much money was given?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :**...over and above the provision of Rs. 27.50 crores in the State Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission. The planning Commission has recommended that Rs. 27.50 crores be provided by that State Plan and the State had requested over and above this, Rs. 18.5 crores as Central assistance.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** How much you are spending?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** Let me complete. Then you will know that what you have done. At the end of December, 1985, the State Government had incurred only Rs. 18 crores on this project, leaving a balance of Rs. 9.50 crores to be utilised in remaining three months in the financial year. Considering the rate of financial progress achieved in this process, it was felt that the State would not be able to utilise any additional funds during the remaining three months, and the Centre did not sanction any special assistance for the project. Why? The actual expenditure incurred on the project by the State Government during 1984-85 was only Rs. 22.87 crores. It was much less than the State Plan outlay itself, which was Rs. 27.50 crores. This is the position. The State has not been able to spend their own money—the allocation that was provided to them. They are showing to the world that they are demanding more money from the Centre and the Central Government is not giving.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Do you mean to say if the State Government has spent Rs. 27.5 crores, you would have advanced them further?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** They could not spend, then where is the question

of giving them additional money. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may kindly appreciate that they could not spend the money which was provided by their own State Government. Then, where is the question of giving additional money?

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is what I am saying.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** That is what I am saying.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Had they spent it, then you would have done it.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** Now what has happened in 1984-85? I would not ask any hypothetical question. If they had done this, what we would have done, I do not know. They have not done that; the question of our doing anything does not arise.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** You have not replied to the question asked from the Chair.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** I have replied to it....(*Interruptions*) During 1985-86, what is the performance? Planning Commission had earmarked on outlay of Rs. 28.58 crores for the project. The State Government had, however, provided Rs. 21 crores, inspite of Planning Commission's recommendation, leave alone the Working Group. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** What was your share?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** I am just telling this: there is no question of our share. Planning Commission had recommended Rs. 28.58 crores, and the State Government provided only Rs. 21 crores.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** What was your share?

**SHRI ANIL BASU :** He is not answering the Chair.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** May I say this, Sir? May I request the Hon. Members and say that let me answer his question, and then Hon. Members may ask their questions. If you look as to how the State Government is providing funds for the

irrigation projects ...if you look to this...  
(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : He drags on the reply always upto 12 o'clock.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : If I can tell the House the allocation by the State Government for major and medium irrigation projects in the total Plan, the House will appreciate what has been the position. In the total 7th Plan outlay..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Central ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The total Plan size is Rs. 4125 crores. I am speaking of West Bengal. For major and medium irrigation projects, you have provided only Rs. 208 crores. The percentage of major and medium irrigation projects..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What has the State Government allotted for major and medium irrigation projects.....

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is what I am telling.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Are we here to discuss the performance of the State Governments, or the allocation by the State Governments ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : We are not discussing it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Piecemeal we cannot discuss these things. He has asked a particular question; he has asked for Central allocations. ....(*Interruptions*) The question is whether the Central Government has allotted or not....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur) : Only on the basis of the performance by the State Government, will the Centre allot.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let them say what they want to; it is their job. I cannot do it.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Without spending at the State level, how can the Centre give the amount ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : That is not the question. He is asking what was the Central allocation.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You are representing the State Government. What is the performance of the State Government ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Then you will have to speak about other States also, not only about West Bengal..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : All right. No talking. Please sit down. If you again get up, it will not be good. .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : My only answer to the question is this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted Dr. Sudhir Roy who has raised this question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want a half-an-hour discussion...

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : My only answer to this, as I have already said, is that the 7th Plan allocation is Rs. 131-odd crores for this project.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : He had asked a question about a specific project. You have started going through all the projects.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Definitely. The question is this : first of all, we do not give a direct grant to any particular project. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Order in the House please...

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The original estimate for Teesta project was Rs. 69.72 crores, as it was approved in 1976.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What is the revised estimate ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : First it was revised to Rs. 213.72 crores in 1981. Now it has been revised to Rs. 425 crores. The State Government has not been able to

draw enough money for this project, even according to Planning Commission's recommendation.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** No. Why has Central Government not made the allocations?...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY :** The State Government has not got infrastructure to spend the money.  
*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** You go and provide it.

**DR. SUDHIR ROY :** I want to inform the Hon. Minister that the Government of West Bengal claims that nearly 80 per cent of the total irrigation budget has been spent for this project only. Is it a fact that the Central Water Commission allocated Rs. 18 crores for the year 1985-86 and they recommended that the first quarter should be released before July, but upto February 1986 not a single penny from the Central Government had been received by the West Bengal Government.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** Is this a fact or not ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** This is not a fact.

**SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY :** Can you direct the State Government to report before this House the total...*(Interruptions)* This is our demand from the Minister....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** This is a very important project. About 56 lakh hectares of land, that is 60 per cent of geographical area is cultivated out of which only 76 lakh hectares are brought under canal irrigation and that too in South Bengal, not in North Bengal. So, this project is very important in North Bengal. What is the central allocation for this particular project Teesta Barrage Canal for the year 1985-86 ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** There is no central allocation for irrigation projects in the country.

### River water disputes

**\*413. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what effective steps Union Government propose to take in disposing of river water disputes that are pending consideration before Government; and

(b) the reasons which prevented the Government from adopting preventive methods while sanctioning the schemes at the beginning ?

**THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :** (a) The Government of India is making efforts to settle the pending disputes through negotiations among the basin States concerned and if need be, referring them to a Tribunal.

(b) Projects are not cleared before the Inter-State issues are resolved.

**SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :** In reply to part (b) the Minister stated that some disputes are referred for negotiations and some are referred for tribunals. Will he enlighten the House how many disputes have been referred for negotiations and how many for tribunals ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** So far 4 disputes have been referred to the tribunals, three of them have been settled—Krishna, Godavari and Narmada. Tribunals have decided to give their award. The House knows that Ravi-Beas water tribunal is at the moment enquiring into the matter. So, this is the position as far as tribunals are concerned. There are a number of projects which have inter-State angle, which are discussed among the States for negotiated settlement.

**SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :** The Hon. Minister replied by saying that efforts are being made while sanctioning this project that no dispute should arise. Despite all this, disputes have arisen. So, what preventive measures government is proposing to take so that after all points are settled before the sanction no disputes should arise thereafter ?