

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 ?

How disputes have arisen after all the points have been settled?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : As I said, we do not clear the projects unless inter-state aspects are settled. The question of preventive measures is involved in this also.

SHRI T. BASHEER : My question is about the Cauvery inter-state water dispute in which three States and one Union territory i.e. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and Pondicherry are involved. The last meeting of the concerned Chief Ministers had failed. And my information is that now there is a deadlock because the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has stated that his Government will not join in any further negotiations on this dispute. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what is the state of affairs regarding this dispute and what steps Government is going to take in this matter especially in the context of the Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran's statement?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : With regard to Cauvery water dispute, the Tamil Nadu Government has written to the Centre for referring the dispute to a tribunal. The Karnataka Government is asserting that this should be settled through negotiations. The Kerala Government has said that they are not going to be a party if their share is not assured as agreed among the States. Pondicherry is going along with Tamil Nadu.

SHRI T. BASHEER : I seek your protection. Many hydro-electric projects are blocked because of this inter-state water dispute.

SHRI A. C. SHANMUGAM : The water disputes are increasing day by day. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Central Government will come forward to nationalise all the rivers in the country in order to avoid inter-state water disputes?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : There is no such proposal before the Government.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : But the Prime Minister has said about it recently.

Central Assistance for irrigation projects of West Bengal

*414. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Central Assistance given in terms of loan or grants out of plan and non-plan expenditure to the State Government of West Bengal for the Teesta Canal Projects, Lower Damodar Canal Restoration Project, and Zangipur Canal Project; and

(b) what were the target dates for their completion and what are the achievements?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Central assistance is given to the State Governments in the form of block loans and grants and is not tied to any sector of development or any individual project. However, a special Central assistance of Rs. 5.00 crores was provided to Teesta Barrage Project in 1983-84.

(b) The Teesta and the Mahananda Barrages are almost complete and the work on the canals is in progress. The Government of West Bengal has not sent Lower Damodar Canal and Jangipur Canal Irrigation Projects to the Centre.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I hail from North Bengal where actually this Teesta Canal project is located.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We thought that he belongs to West Bengal...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : If you say that I will agree...*(Interruptions)*. So long as you are in the lap of CPM you say this : when you come back to our lap again you will have to say that.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : He is an orphan. He depends only on the mercy of the Prime Minister. He is a** I tell you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Choubey...

(Interruptions)

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.