

(b) In the case of Group Housing Societies the legal ownership of the land and the flats vests with the Society and not in the individual members.

(c) There is at present no proposal to change the above position.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: The Minister has stated that the allottees of flats constructed by DDA are subject to certain conditions. May I ask a pointed question from the Minister? What are those certain conditions; and do the Government know about the large scale mal-practice which is there in the allotment of and transfer of DDA flats?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARA- IN SINGH): So far as mal-practice is concerned, I have no information. As has been said there is a regulation of 1968, and the DDA acts according to that regulation. In certain cases, in very rare cases transfer is allowed. Normally no transfer is actually allowed before 10 years. If any transfer has to be allowed before 10 years, then as a very special case, the Chair- man, DDA does it; and for that, rules have been laid down.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: The second part of the question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: I myself and Prof. Madhu Dandavate want to settle this question. I want to know whether I should call you 'Piyush' or 'Pius'.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: 'Piyush'.

MR. SPEAKER: Both are good.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Have you received any proposal from any quar- ter so far; if so, what are the propo- sals?

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: I have stated in my reply already that at present, there is no proposal to change the regulat'on. The regula-

tion which is available is in opera- tion and that is sufficient.

Submersion of land in Murshidabad due to spill over of Ganga Water flowing through Farakka Barrage

Feeder Canal

*277. **SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Govern- ment and Farakka Barrage adminis- tration has been drawn to the sub- mersion of about 30,000 acres of agricultural land belonging to culti- vators in police station areas of Suti and Raghunathaganj in Murshidabad District, West Bengal for the last 4-5 years due to spill-over of Ganga water flowing through Farakka Bar- rage feeder canal which passes by this area before joining the Hooghly Bhagirathi channel at Jongipur, resulting in great loss to the culti- vators;

(b) whether any investigation has been made by the Farakka Barrage authorities about causes of this spill- over and any plans drawn for drain- ing out water from the submerged fields; and

(c) in case no such draining out of the water is possible, whether Govern- ment propose to compensate the owners of the lands for the losses suffered by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by the West Bengal State Government the area affected is only about 10,234 acres. Even earlier to the commissioning of Farakka feeder canal, this area used to get inundated for 3 1/2 months in the monsoon pe- riod, every year.

(b) A scheme for developement of low lying areas of the Pagla-Bansloi basin affected by Farakka Feeder Canal waters and to make available such areas for rajji cultivation has

been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.12 crores.

The scheme envisages construction of regulators on Pagla and Bansloi rivers and a northward drainage channel with a regulator to control the flow. The implementation of the scheme would ensure availability of more or less the same agricultural benefits which used to be derived from the low-lying areas prior to operation of the Farakka Feeder Canal. The Scheme is expected to be implemented in 2½ years and has been taken up for execution.

(c) In view of answer to (b) above the question does not arise.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: The Minister has not denied about the land in question, as far as (a) part of my question is concerned. It has been permanently submerged due to spill-over from the Farakka Barrage Feeder Canal; the fact is that for the last 4-5 years, this land has been permanently submerged. The development scheme that which the Minister has stated would take another 2½ years i.e. for 7 years and the agriculturists of this place have lost heavily so far as their crops and other things are concerned. Would the Government consider at least paying them some compensation for the loss they have suffered for these 6-7 years continuously? When this land used to be submerged every year, as they say, for two or three months, a large deposit of the silt would take place and that would benefit the agriculturists. Now, this land has been submerged permanently for the last 7-8 years and the agriculturists have been put to a very heavy loss. Would you not compensate them?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: As I have already stated in my reply to the question, this is a fact that all the Farakka Feeder Canal area remains inundated for 3½ months during the monsoon period and the remaining for the rest of the period. There is no denying the fact; and that is why, just after the commissioning of the Farakka Feeder Canal, we took steps

and finally in consultation with the State Government, a scheme has been approved and is still under implementation. The amount has already been sanctioned so that the cultivators may get some benefits. But as far as the question of paying compensation is concerned, this is a big question. As a matter of fact, no compensation to the owner of the land affected has been paid by the Farakka Barrage Project Administration. The West Bengal Government has reported that the affected people are anxious to get land for cultivation; they are not very much interested in the compensation; they are more interested in getting their land useful for agricultural purposes. So, they would like that the drainage scheme should be implemented earlier. They are not interested in getting compensation. So, according to the report from the West Bengal Government, we are taking steps to get the land and make it available and useful for implementing it quickly.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: This is a preposterous answer that the Minister has given.

How can you say that the agriculturists are not interested when their land has been lost to all cultivation for the last 6 to 7 years and when their land would not be available for them for cultivation for the next 2½ years? It is rich agricultural land. You can, therefore, easily calculate what would be the amount of loss suffered by the cultivators. Anyway, you are not paying any compensation.

But, it is not correct to say that the agriculturists are not interested in getting any compensation. They have claimed compensation.

You may say that neither the State Government nor the Central Government is responsible for this inundation and, therefore, they are not interested in paying any compensation. But, anyway I would be happy if this water is drained out from the lands early.

May I know whether it is the Farakka Barrage Authorities or it is the West Bengal/Government or it is the Central Government which is responsible for implementing this draining out scheme?

I would also like to know whether the financial sanction has been given by the Central Government or by the State Government or the State Government has been subsidized?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, the work has been assigned to a private construction company called Chatterjee Contractors by the Farakka Barrage Authority. This is a Central Project, as the Hon. Member knows. The Farakka Barrage Authority has given the contract and that company is implementing that Project.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: I would like to know whether the Government would issue instructions to the Farakka Barrage Authorities to calculate the crop losses every year and whether the Government would consider giving the farmers crop compensation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): You would kindly appreciate that often the land-owners suffer losses on account of certain development programmes which in turn hamper and obstruct the natural flow of waters. But, it is very difficult to assess the losses in every case on account of development programmes. Apart from that, this is a very small area, about 10,000 acres only.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Then, give compensation.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We have not gone into the question of compensating farmers for crop losses from year to year. In all such cases, I am not very sure whether the Central Government can afford to follow a policy of compensating farmers for

all such losses. It might set a precedent. After all, finances are involved.

Primarily, the State Government is responsible for executing the schemes and wherever they have Central schemes, it is for the State Government to see whether any losses have been suffered on a huge scale by the farmers and land-owners just as in every case of natural calamities, where the Central Government helps the State Governments to provide relief.

But, the State Governments has to provide relief to the people? If they have sent any proposals to the Central Government, I shall certainly look into them and be able to take some decision.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: It is clear that the Central Government has not given any thought to this matter. May I know whether the Government would now give some consideration to this particular matter since it has been raised on the floor of the House? It is not a matter of one year or two years of natural disasters, but obviously it has been going on for the last three years and it will go on for another five years until the drainage scheme of the Government is ready. The Government should consider this and they should also say whether it would be possible to compensate them for the loss of the crop. Or, the State Government there should give some sort of help to the aggrieved people. Ten thousand acres is not a small area and surely there are ten thousand people dependant on them.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We have noted the suggestions and feelings of the hon. Members and we shall look into them. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: This is not that simple. (*Interruptions*)

Rural poor in States

*278. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state: