

Member's apprehension is quite correct. To remove that apprehension, we have taken some steps.

The work of strengthening of left embankment and Spurs 3 to 7 on the upstream of Farakka barrage has been completed substantially. The entire work is expected to be completed by June, 1984. We have taken these definite steps to remove that apprehension. An expenditure of Rs. 5 crores has been incurred upto March, 1982 and an additional expenditure of Rs. 2.53 crores is proposed in 1982-83 and Rs. 1.8 crores in 1983-84.

The next step is, in the vicinity of Jangipur Barrage, a scheme estimated to cost Rs. 2.7 crores has been sanctioned, The work is also expected to be completed by June, 1984.

These are the two steps we have taken. And it is the responsibility of the Farakka Barrage Authorities to see that these two rivers do not meet and they will not meet.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Sir, this is an assurance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next question. Shri Anantha Ramulmallu.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have gone to the next question.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : First of all, they said, 'the question does not arise'. In the Answer, they said, 'it does not arise'. This is a general principle which should be noted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No general discussion on this.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : The Minister has taken us lightly. Please try to understand. These questions are asked in order to elicit information. But what was your answer? The answer was 'no such report'. First, they say, the question does not arise; then, they say, there is an awareness and, after the members coax, them, then they say that there is an apprehension. You see how the Ministers are replying the questions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next question.

Water Wells for Harijans

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212. SHRI ANANTHA RAMULMALLU :

SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages (State-wise) where there are no drinking water wells for Harijans; and

(b) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : (a) and (b). Drinking water supply is a State subject and schemes are formulated and executed by the State Governments. The allocation for the programme is made in the States budget. However, the Central Government assists the efforts of the State Governments by giving grants under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

At the beginning of the 6th Plan period, i.e. on 1-4-1980, there were 2.31 lakh identified problem villages. The identification of the villages was done on the basis of their problematic nature, with reference to the distance, depth and the quality of water that was available.

However, the Minister of Works and Housing has written to the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and U.T. Administrations requesting them to give special attention to the needs of weaker sections particularly the Scheduled Castes/Tribes, while implementing the programme. Two conferences with the representatives of State Governments were arranged by the Ministry of Works & Housing, one at the official level and the other at the Ministers level in 1982 in New Delhi. It was agreed in these conferences, that the needs of the Scheduled Castes/Tribes be given a higher priority.

This Ministry does not have information regarding the number of villages where there are no drinking water wells for Harijans, but is monitoring and getting periodical information from the State Governments regarding the population of Scheduled Castes/Tribes covered in the programme.

It is envisaged to cover all the identified problem villages with at least one source of safe potable water supply available throughout the year, during the Sixth Plan period.

SHRI ANANTHA RAMULU MALLU : Sir, my question is very specific. I have asked how many number of Harijan villages, Harijan bastis, have been ignored where there are no drinking water wells, I wanted this information. But the Hon. Minister, by answering this question, has given the number of identified villages. I have asked that question.

Secondly, I am happy that the Hon. Minister was pleased to assure the House that they are monitoring the programme. But without having the particulars, how is the Department going to monitor it and how is the Government going to review it? May I know from the Hon. Minister, in view of the specific assurance given by the Hon. Prime Minister on several occasions that top priority shall have to be given

to the supply of drinking water programme and, particularly, the Harijan bastis shall have to be provided drinking water, whether he is going to call for the particulars at least now and whether he will be in a position to give the information at least in the next session?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For Andhra Pradesh only or for the whole of India?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : For the whole of India.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHAN : Y: So far as the drinking water programmes are concerned, they are being implemented by the State Governments. As a matter of fact, our priority has been indicated in the Sixth Plan document and also in the letter from the Minister to all the Chief Ministers. Besides, the resolutions adopted at the Conference are attended to at the Ministerial level. We have emphasized and given the guidelines that priority must be given to the areas where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are residing. But all the same you must remember that we do not implement this programme on the basis of residents, as to who are the residents, whether they are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but on the basis of the area covered. We have identified 2.31 lakh villages. If the Hon. Member so likes, I can give him the total population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes covered under this programme.

I shall read out the resolution which will give you an indication and that will help in understanding it. As per the resolution at the Ministerial level, in 1982, it was decided, where logistically and technically not impossible to do so, that every new source of drinking water in a village may be located in the Scheduled Caste habitation open to all communities. That will change the trend itself. Previously, it was being located in non-Scheduled

Cast areas. Now the policy has been changed and it will be located in Harijan areas and other community people can go there. All the same, that will be implemented by the State Government.

SHRI ANANTHA RAMULU MALLU : The Hon. Minister has given some valuable information. I heard it. I can understand if the information pertaining to the States is not available with the Minister. But the information pertaining to the Union Territories such as Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh is supposed to be available with the Minister.

Drinking water supply is also a programme under the 20-Point Programme. Do we not have the particulars of these areas ?

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANIY : The problem is that we are implementing this Programme on the basis of areas not on the basis of the Harijan villages, Scheduled Tribe villages or other villages. We have no such information. And, I am afraid, perhaps the State Governments do not maintain any such information, any record, about the villages.

But they will be having the information about the number of people covered. That information is available with us. I can give that information even now.

We do not keep the information on the basis of villages. That is not our approach. Our approach is area-wise.

SHRI ANANTHA RAMULU MALLU : My question is not properly answered.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Meet him separately. He will give proper reply.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : The Hon. Minister has stated that 2.31 lakh problem villages are identified. I suppose that this identification has been done by the State Governments concerned and has been communicated to the Ministry at the Centre. So, on this basis, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether he can ask the same State Governments to identify and to communicate to the Centre which are the villages where predominantly the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people reside and how many of them have already been covered by the drinking water supply scheme ?

The second point is that due to cyclone and floods as well as drought, a number of tubewells, especially in coastal areas of Orissa have been made unusable due to increase in salinity of water.

So, what specific steps Government have taken and what information Government have gathered from the State Governments to make the tubewells repaired or rebored or made usable for the people living there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I want to submit for the information of the Hon. Member that the impression that the information is not.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When you were sitting there, your sound was all right ! Now the sound has come down ! When you were sitting there, your voice was very well. Why does it come down ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I had performed my role there and I have to perform my role here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I wish to submit for the information of the

Hon. Member that it is not that the information is not available with us. The Deputy Minister has already given some information. I would like to clarify further that the information of the total number of villages covered in all States during 1980-81 and 1981-82 is with us. We can give this information. As far as the information regarding the total number of problem villages, the total number of villages covered during this and that year and the total number of Scheduled Caste population benefited etc. is concerned, that information is with us. That information we can give.

But my Hon. colleague wanted the names of the villages. If you want to know the names of the particular villages, that information at the moment I would not be able to give.

Now the Hon. Minister wrote a letter to the States about these problems. Well, where the water is saline, that should be given proper treatment. Where the source is not available, one source should be made available. That is there.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: My question has not been answered.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is all right.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, शेड्यूल कास्ट और शेड्यूल ट्राइब्स को कांस्टीट्यूशनली प्रोटेक्ट किया गया है और यह फण्डामेंटल राइट्स में है। उनके वेलफेयर और प्रोटेक्शन से भारत सरकार मात्र यह कह करके कि राज्य सरकार इस काम को कर रही है, उसकी जवाब देही है, अपनी जवाब देही से मुकर नहीं सकती है। यह हमारे लिए और आपके लिए शर्म की बात है कि आजादी के 36 वर्ष बाद भी हरिजन-आदिवासी गन्दे नाले का

पानी पी रहे हैं और मर रहे हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि शेड्यूल कास्ट, शेड्यूल ट्राइब कमीशन की रिपोर्ट आती है, इनके वेलफेयर के लिए पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी बनी हुई है जो प्रतिवर्ष आपको रिपोर्ट देती है कि कितने गांव हैं और कितने गांवों में पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि शेड्यूल कास्ट, शेड्यूल ट्राइब विलेज अलग होते हैं, गांव के बाहर। सरकार जो इस बात को कह रही है कि हमारे पास सिर्फ प्राब्लम-विलेजेज की सूची है, शेड्यूल-कास्ट, शेड्यूल ट्राइब्स गांवों की सूची नहीं है, इसका मतलब है कि आपने शेड्यूल कास्ट, शेड्यूल ट्राइब कमीशन की रिपोर्ट नहीं पढ़ी है। मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कमीशन की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक शेड्यूल कास्ट, शेड्यूल ट्राइब के कितने गांव हैं और उनमें से कितने गांवों में अभी तक पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है और कब तक आप यह व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Our basis of approach is different. Our basis is not that each village is necessarily to be inhabited by the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes people. Our basis is that each problem village, whoever are the inhabitants.....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : My question is regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. You must protect me, Sir. He has not followed my question. He must give a proper answer. He should not try to mislead the House.

संसदीय कार्य तथा निर्माण और आवास मंत्री (श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इन्होंने हिन्दी में प्रश्न किया है, इसलिए हिन्दी में जवाब दे रहा हूँ।

पासवान जी, आप जानते हैं कि सभी प्राब्लम विलेजेज को पीने का पानी उपलब्ध कराने की हमारी नीति है और छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में बड़े पैमाने पर इस कार्य को करने के लिए लगभग 20 अरब रुपए की व्यवस्था की गई है। जहां शेड्यूल-कास्ट, शेड्यूल ट्राइब्स की पापूलेशन है, उन गांवों को प्राथमिकता तो दी ही जायेगी।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अभी तक कुछ किया गया है या नहीं या कब तक करने जा रहे हैं।

श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह : जवाब तो सुनिए। यह जो आंकड़े बताए गए हैं कि देश में 2 लाख 31 हजार प्राब्लम विलेजेज हैं, ये राज्य सरकारों की राय से आइडिएन्टीफाई किए गए हैं। इसमें शेड्यूल कास्ट, और शेड्यूल ट्राइब के गांव भी शामिल हैं।

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : My question is regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Why is he telling us about problem villages ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is replying.

श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह : आप मेरा जवाब तो सुनिए। इसमें शेड्यूल-कास्ट, शेड्यूल ट्राइब विलेजेज भी शामिल हैं और आपको यह जानकर खुशी होगी कि इसके अलावा जितने भी प्राब्लम विलेजेज आइडि-एन्टीफाई किए गए हैं, 2 लाख 31 हजार पूरे देश में, उनके लिए लगभग 20 अरब रुपया छठी योजना में रखा गया है और सभी प्राब्लम विलेजेज में पीने का पानी उपलब्ध कराने का हमारा लक्ष्य है। यह इतना ज्यादा चिन्ता का विषय नहीं है, क्योंकि पीने का पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सरकार वचन-बद्ध है, छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत ही कोशिश है।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : सरकार तो चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में भी यही कहती थी और पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में भी यही कहती थी।

श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह : मैं छठी योजना के बारे में उत्तर दे रहा हूँ और आपको जानकर प्रसन्नता होगी कि उसकी प्रोग्रेस बहुत अच्छी है। हम लोग वचनबद्ध हैं छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्दर जितने भी आइडिएन्टीफाई प्राब्लम विलेजेज हैं, उनमें यह कोशिश होगी कि पूरे के पूरे प्राब्लम विलेजेज में पीने का पानी मुहैया कराया जाए।

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : May I know whether Government is aware of this problem that in some States the Harijans are not allowed to take water from public wells. This has come out in the newspapers. I want to know the reaction of the Government and the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANIY : We have no such information. This is a matter for the State Governments to take necessary action.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next question—Kumari Pushpa Devi Singh—absent.

Next question—Shri R.N. Rakesh—absent. Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh.

Foregoing of Irrigation charges in States due to Failure of Monsoon

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*215 SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SINGH :

SHRI RAM VILAS PAS-
WAN :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION
be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that
irrigation charges are very high in