

[सरदार इकबाल सिंह]

उन पर एतनाद नहीं है। जहा तक जनरल मैनेजर और दूसरे इंजीनियर्स का ताल्लुक है, उन्होंने ईस्ट काम किया है और उन पर पंजाब के लोग और शासन फरज कर सकते हैं।

जहा तक भालड़ा डैम से खुशाहाली होने का ताल्लुक है, जो खुशाहाली उसके साथ कम से कम पंजाब के लोगों की वाबस्ता है, उससे सब लोग वाकिफ हैं। इसलिये जो उसके बारे में एकशन और रिएकशन हो रहा है, वह लाजिमी तौर पर पंजाब के लोगों पर आता है। इन तीन चीजों को महेनजर रखते हुये इस डिसकशन की भाग की गई थी और साथ ही साथ जो दस वर्क्स वहा पर मरे हैं उनको कम से कम हमें अपनी बचाई भेजनी चाहिये कि उन्होंने बड़ी बहादुरी के साथ आखिरी वक्त तक जब मौत भी उनको नजर आ रही थी, अपनी ड्यूटी निभाई है, ड्यूटी पर वे डटे रहे हैं और इस काम के लिये उन्होंने अपनी जाने दी हैं।

उच्चायक महोदय यह पहले भी मिनिस्टर साहब कह चुके हैं और इसको किया जा चुका है। हम सब को इस बात पर फरज है कि उन लोगों ने अपनी जानो पर खेल करके भी अपनी ड्यूटी भदा की है, अपनी जाने कुर्बान की है। मेरा ख्याल है कि मृत व्यक्तियों के परिवारो को हमारी हमदर्दी पहुंचा दी जायेगी।

श्री० रणवीर सिंह मुझे भी एक प्रश्न पूछना है और आपकी आज्ञा हो तो . . .

उच्चायक महोदय सवाल का बक्त चला गया। मेरा सवाल अब आप सुनिये।

The question is:

"That this House takes note of the Statements made by the Minister of Irrigation and Power in the House on the 22nd August, 24th August, 2nd September and 7th September, 1959, regarding

the damage caused by the accident on the 21st August, 1959 to the hoist chamber of a tunnel at the Bhakra Dam".

The motion was adopted

17.46 hrs.

*TUNGABHADRA HIGH LEVEL
CANAL

Shri Ramji Reddy (Cuddapah): Mr Deputy-Speaker, at the outset, I express my gratitude to you for the opportunity you have given me to raise this discussion in spite of heavy pressure of work before the House.

Three points arise for discussion in regard to this Tungabhadra High Level Canal. They are

- (a) Elimination of Chitravathu anicut and Pulivendla Canal from the scheme;
- (b) The capacity of the Mid-Pennar reservoir and the Mid-Pennar South Canal and its head sluice, and
- (c) The Phasing of the scheme itself into two phases

I am confining my remarks purely to these three aspects, because of the shortness of the time at my disposal. This scheme is intended to benefit the famine-stricken areas of Cuddapah, Anantapur, Kurnool and Bellary districts. These are famine-stricken areas. Here the rainfall is the lowest in the south. The per capita income is also the lowest; though the people are very hard-working, they have no other source of irrigation. This area is subject to famine once in every two or three years. Therefore, the composite Madras State contemplated this High Level Canal scheme for the benefit of these four districts. This has been under contemplation of the composite Madras State for over 100 years. Several investigations had been done, and for a proper appreciation of the three points I have raised, I may

try to recapitulate certain facts very briefly about the history of this High Level Canal scheme.

As I said, this scheme was under investigation for over 100 years. About the year 1902 or 1903, Mr. Mackenzie investigated that scheme and he prepared a report about the scheme. Under that scheme, besides other districts, five taluks in the Cuddapah district, namely, Jamalamadugu, Kamalapuram, Cuddapah, Pulivandla and Prodattur, were also included in this scheme. Under that scheme, Pulivandla taluk alone was expected to be irrigated to the extent of over one lakh acres. That was the position under the Mackenzie scheme.

Then it underwent several revisions and in the year 1954, the scheme was finally approved and estimates prepared. Even under this scheme of 1954, besides the Bellary and Anantapur districts, these five taluks of Cudappah district—Pulivandla, Jamalamadugu, Kamalapuram, Prodattur and Cuddappah were expected to be benefited, though the Pulivandla taluk would have been benefited only to the extent of 55,000 acres as against a little over 1 lakh acres contemplated under the Mackenzie scheme. Therefore, under the 1954 scheme, which was expected to cost about Rs. 26 crores, the ayacut was reduced from about 1 lakh acres under the Mackenzie scheme to about 55,000 acres. That was the position in 1954. Under that scheme the ayacuts in the other 4 taluks also were considerably reduced. Then, in 1956, after prolonged negotiations between the Mysore and the Andhra Governments, they came to some arrangement and they prepared a so-called revised scheme as it exists today, a scheme costing about Rs 22 crores.

17.50 hrs.

[SHRI BARMAN in the Chair]

'Under this scheme, I learn that the Chitravati anicut, the Pulivendala canal and the Papagni regulator and

the Papagni canal, the latter two benefiting the taluk, have all been completely eliminated. The ayacuts in the other taluks also were considerably reduced. Therefore, the position in regard to this Chitravati anicut and the Pulivendala canal boils down to this. Under the Mackenzie scheme about a lakh of acres were expected to be benefited; under the 1954 scheme, it was reduced to 55,000 acres. Now, under the existing scheme, the scheme technically approved by the Centre, the Pulivendala canal and the Chitravati anicut are completely eliminated. As I said, the ayacuts in the other taluks have also been considerably reduced.

The Andhra Government has been pressing on the Centre to sanction the scheme for over 5 to 6 years. But the Centre did not condescend to sanction the scheme. In the year 1958, they suggested that this revised scheme of 1956 might be developed in two stages, that is, stage one costing about Rs. 13 crores and the second stage costing about Rs 9 crores.

Under this scheme, in the first stage, only 5 or 6 works are contemplated, namely, the Mid-Pennar regulator, the mam canal for about 118 miles, Mid-Pennar South Canal and North Canal, the Tadpatri branch. These alone are included in the first phase. The Gandikota weir, the other north canal and the south canal and the Guntakal branch, these things, are omitted from the first phase. These things are expected to be taken up in the second phase. That means that in the first phase, Cudappah district does not stand to benefit at all. It totally stands to lose.

In the 1956 scheme, the Pulivendala taluk is eliminated, the Cudappah taluk, namely the Papagni regulator and the Papagni canal are eliminated. This is the position as regards the scheme as it affects the Cudappah district.

As a result of this several representations have been made both to the

[Shri Ramji Reddy]

State Government and to the Centre to sanction the old scheme, that is both the phases and to include the Pulivendla canal, the Chitravati anicut also though the expenditure might be spread over a number of years—say 7 or 8 years. It does not matter. But, even that the Central Government has not been pleased to sanction

In this connection, I would like to refer to starred question No 641 which was answered on 21st August, 1959 in regard to the second point that I have raised, namely, the Mid-Pennar canals before and after reduction. From a reading of the answers given to this question, I understand that the capacity of the Mid-Pennar south canal under the scheme of 1954, that is the scheme costing Rs 26 crores where the Pulivendla canal was included, was 1298 cusecs. Under the revised scheme, though the Mid-Pennar south canal is not expected to feed the Pulivendla canal the capacity of the canal is kept as 1298 cusecs. It is to enable the State Government to develop the Papagni canal and the Chitravati anicut in future by utilising the Pennar waters available at Mid-Pennar reservoir. In reply to the unstarred question No 2275, answered on 7th September 1959 the hon Minister has stated

"In 1956, the revised estimates were proposed to include works like the Pulivendla Canal, Chitravati anicut, Papagni regulator and canal, which were intended to utilise the water of Pennar river."

The Andhra Government proposed that these four works might be included in the High Level Canal Scheme proper for utilisation of Pennar waters for benefiting Pulivendla and Cuddeph taluks but the Central Government advised the Andhra Government that they might be developed as a separate scheme. As I understand it, it is for this purpose that the capacity of the Mid-Pennar south canal is kept at 1298 cusecs, without reducing its

capacity, so that it might carry the water available to the Mid-Pennar reservoir. I would like to know from the hon Minister whether any assessment of the availability of Pennar waters at Mid-Pennar reservoir was made and if so what is the quantity and also whether that quantity would be sufficient to irrigate the Pulivendla block which was expected to be benefited by Chitravati anicut and Pulivendla canal. The capacity of the canal has been kept intact as per the original scheme of 1954. But unless the capacity of the Mid-Pennar reservoir is kept as per the original estimate, it will not be possible to develop that area though the capacity of this canal might be kept intact. So, I would like the hon Minister to make this position clear whether the capacity of the Mid-Pennar reservoir is to be kept as per the original estimate. Now, coming to the first and second phases of the work, some works like the bridges, culverts, sluices and all the other masonry works are permanent structures. They have to be constructed in the first phase itself across the Mid-Pennar South Canal as also along the other channels. Unless these permanent structures are constructed as per the original estimate it may not be possible to undertake the second phase. I would also request the hon Minister to make this position clear. This is a scheme which does not involve any foreign exchange. This scheme benefits areas which are very often affected by famine. If only you remember the miserable plight of the people of this district, you will know its importance. There was famine for three years successively in this area till 1952-53. Then water could not be had from the wells even for drinking purposes and military assistance had to be sought for deepening the wells. Gruel centres had to be started by the State Government and I understand about Rs 4 crores were spent in one year alone for the distribution of gruel and for starting some relief works. This is the miserable plight of the people of this district. Therefore, I would

request the hon. Minister to see that the Pulivendla Canal, Chitravati anicut, Papagni regulator and Papagni Canal are included in the scheme, and the whole scheme consisting of both the phases, phases 1 and 2, including Pulivendla Canal and Chitravati anicut is sanctioned now itself so that the State Government may be able to provide irrigation facilities to these areas also. As I said, Sir, the Mackenzie Scheme provided irrigation facilities for one lakh acres. Later on it was reduced to 55,000 acres, then the Pulivendla Block was eliminated and ultimately the Cuddapah District has totally been eliminated under the first phase. Therefore, the people have come to entertain some doubts and fears as to whether the second phase would be taken up at all, whether the Pulivendla canal would be taken up at all as a separate scheme.

18 hrs.

The point now is, no target date has been fixed for the completion of the first phase. It is not known when they are going to complete the first phase, whether it is going to be completed in the middle of the Third Plan. No phasing has yet been done. Therefore, we do not know when the first phase will be completed. After completion of the first phase, the Central Government has again to be approached by the State Government for sanction of the second phase. Then the Central Government may advance so many reasons like financial difficulty and so on. We would, therefore, request that the entire scheme may be sanctioned even though the scheme may be executed over a number of years. No finance is involved in sanctioning the whole scheme, because we are not requesting the Centre to provide financial allocation to the extent of all the Rs. 22 crores now itself.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to use his good offices and influence to get the Pulivendla canal and Chitravati anicut included in the scheme and the whole scheme sanctioned now itself so that there may not be any difficulties in future.

Shri Nagi Reddy rose—

Mr. Chairman: The scope of the discussion is very limited. The hon. Member may just put a question. There is another Half-an-hour Discussion. The Minister must have time to reply.

Shri Nagi Reddy (Anantapur): I want to put only two questions. I would like to know from the Minister as to what was the total estimated cultivable land under the high level canal in the 1954 scheme and what is the present estimated acreage to be covered under the 1958 scheme after the first and second phases are over. From my understanding it looks as though the acreage is almost the same in the first 1954 plan and in the 1958 plan even though Pulivendla canal has been eliminated in the second plan. I would like to know whether it is a fact that both the 1954 plan and the 1958 plan cover almost the same acreage except probably for about 8,000 or 9,000 acres. If that is so, I would like to ask whether really Pulivendla canal is there in the plan at all. If the acreage is the same, Pulivendla canal cannot be had because the water is almost the same. Secondly, I would ask, if there is really a Pulivendla canal possible in the high level canal, why it has been eliminated even from the second phase of the plan? I can understand it if they eliminate it from the first phase, but why has it been eliminated from the second phase and why are we told today that it can be had later? Probably it may be that they do not know whether it will be in the third phase, fourth phase, fifth phase or the sixth phase. I would like to have a clear-cut answer. I do not want the people to be bamboozled by saying that it exists and it does not exist. This Hamletian business has become too much for the people of Rayalaseema to go through.

Shri D. V. Rao rose—

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. This is a half-an-hour discussion. The

[Mr Chairman]

Minister has very little time to reply. Then there is another half-an-hour discussion. I do not think we should go further and beyond the half-hour fixed for the subject. The Minister has got only ten minutes left for his reply. The hon. Member may, however, put his question in just one sentence.

Shri D. V. Eao (Nalgonda). During the budget session, the hon. Minister was kind enough to assure us that the entire scheme had been approved. Does not that assurance given to us by the Minister include this part of the scheme, namely, the Pulivendla and Chitravati scheme?

Shri Narasimhan (Krishnagiri) On this matter, may I know what were the views that the Andhra Government took?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): This question about the Tungabhadra high level canal has been raised in this House a number of times in the Question Hour, during the budget discussions and also in December, 1958. We had also a half-an-hour discussion on this very particular subject.

The whole point that has been made out is whether the Tungabhadra high level canal scheme as a whole is sanctioned or whether it is only one scheme that is sanctioned. What will be the fate of the second stage and whether the areas which are intended to be served by the Pulivendla canal and the Chitravathi anicut would be included in the second phase or not? Again, whether that area will get irrigation and, if so, when? I think these are the main points which exercise the mind of hon. Members.

The area which is to be irrigated by the Tungabhadra high level canal is a scarcity area and it needs water no doubt. Therefore, although the return of this project is only 1.6 per cent., the Planning Commission has agreed

to take up this scheme. Generally, the productivity of a scheme is taken into consideration only if the returns are three or four per cent. in which case there is no objection to the scheme being taken. But we do not want merely to be guided by the yardstick of the return in terms of percentage. After all, the need of an area is to be judged and assessed, and if any area needs water badly, where there is no irrigation and where even perhaps drinking water is also scarce, we should not stick to the yardstick in terms of percentage. It is for that reason that although the percentage of return is 1.6—the scheme is unproductive in that way—the Planning Commission, as a special case, has looked to the needs of the area and has taken up the scheme.

The question is whether it is the whole scheme or whether it is in part. The scheme as such, as a whole, as I have stated a number of times—I mean the Tungabhadra high level canal scheme—is considered acceptable by the Planning Commission technically. That is, technically, the scheme is approved. There is no question that further estimates or further scrutiny or further negotiations between the two States have to be gone into. So far as the distribution of water is concerned, that ratio is there, it is fixed. We have so arranged that in the first stage, the consumption or the utilisation of the water will be in the same ratio. Out of the total area to be irrigated in both the States, one half will be irrigated in the first stage for Mysore, similarly, one half will be irrigated so far as Andhra is concerned. In the second stage, the remaining one half out of 3.8 lakh acres, viz., 1,36,000 acres are to be irrigated in Mysore. Out of that 68,000 acres will be irrigated in the first stage in Mysore and the remaining 68,000 acres in the second stage. Similarly out of the balance of 3.8 lakh acres remaining, i.e., 3.8 lacs minus 1,36,000 acres for Andhra Pradesh, nearly one half will be irrigated in the first stage and the other

will be in the second stage. So, that position is clear.

The only thing that the Planning Commission has said is, because of the financial resources position, it will not be possible to sanction the whole scheme financially. After you go ahead and irrigate 68,000 acres in Mysore and a lakh and some acres in Andhra Pradesh, those lands begin yielding results and by that time, we can go ahead with the second stage. So, if there is any apprehension on the part of Members that the second stage is going to be shelved, I would like to make it clear that technically the whole scheme is approved. It has been considered acceptable technically. There is no difficulty about it. But it is naturally the question of allotment of finance that comes in the way. I think the Members on both sides of the House will agree that it is better that if we have a project, we go on taking the maximum benefit from the completed part and go on adding to that project whenever it becomes possible for us, having regard to the financial position. So, if there is anything, it is only this that they have sanctioned the first stage for inclusion from the financial point of view. Then comes the second stage.

The next question is, they want to know about the areas which are to be irrigated from the other two canals and whether they are also included. I have explained the point during the Question Hour, but not at length. In the second stage, those canals have been eliminated. They have not been kept in the second stage because it is a question of utilising the water of the Pennar. But we have made provision in the plan that whenever the Andhra Government takes up that project as a separate scheme, water would be available for that. That is at the Pennar regulator and at the main canals, the discharges have been kept so as to fit in the co-ordinated planning, the over-all integration and the economic development of the region as a whole. For example it

is 1,298 cusecs ultimately. That means that at the time when the first stage is complete, even side by side supposing another scheme is taken along with this and they want to start that scheme, it will not be technically impossible. It will be technically possible to take those two canals also and to start the work immediately. But it is only a question of arranging priority for inclusion in the plan.

The other question was about the masonry works and other things. So far as the canals are concerned, in the initial stages, the main canals will not be lined. It will be 2,300 cusecs. But in the second stage, it will be lined. The canal's capacity will be increased. It will be widened to make the discharge 4,000 cusecs. The other masonry works will be so constructed so that no expenditure would be involved at the time of taking up the second stage. We plan that way. The ultimate aim is, of course, the development of the area. The ultimate aim is the area which was sought to be irrigated should be irrigated and for that purpose, all the masonry works that have to be constructed on the canals will be so constructed that in future there should be no difficulty about that. I think that was the point on which he wanted further clarification.

So far as the area is concerned, we have so arranged that both Mysore and Andhra will get half the benefits in the first stage and the other half in the later stage. That was a scheme which was evolved after discussion with the Andhra Government and the Mysore Government, and that is what the present scheme aims at.

Shri Narasimhan: But Cudappah has been let down.

Shri Hathi: It has not been let down. It is an area to be commanded by the high level canal. The only question is of stages. I want to make that quite clear—Cudappah area is not going to be eliminated from the

[Shri Hathi]

scheme of the Tungabhadra High-level canal. It is only a question of phasing it. It may not find a place in the first stage. But when you expand the scope and when you take it to the second stage that area would be included. So, there should be no apprehension that it is being eliminated. It is only a question of phasing.

Shri Nagi Reddy: My question has not been answered. In 1954 when the Pulivendla canal part of the scheme was being considered the total area to be covered under the high level canal was the same as the total area that is going to be covered now. So, I want to know from where the water is going to come now to irrigate another 60,000 acres of land, which would be the excess acreage to be covered than that included in the 1954 plan.

Shri Hathi: That area is not going to be irrigated now.

Shri Ram Reddy: My point was whether assessment has been made in Pennar as to whether water is available for the Pulivendla canal.

Shri Hathi: I think water is available.

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up discussion, half an hour discussion, on the Hassan-Mangalore Railway Line. Shri Achar.

Shri Achar (Mangalore): I am really happy ..

Shri Narasimhan: There is no quorum.

Mr. Chairman: Let us wait. The quorum bell is being rung.

Shri Warior: Let us take it that the quorum is there. Those who are interested in it are remaining here.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I have no objection. I did not raise the question.

Shri Narasimhan: Is it open to me to withdraw the objection?

Mr. Chairman: No. I find that there is no quorum.

18 20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday September 11 1959/Bhadra 20 1861 (Saka)