

other projects. That demand has not been conceded so far. So far as the international character of these rivers is concerned, many rivers are international in character. That is not one of the reasons which will weigh with us in taking over a project by the Centre. It is a very difficult problem on which a policy decision is yet to be taken.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA :

A Member of the Planning Commission is reported to have said that we have by now invested about Rs. 5000 crores, to be precise, Rs. 4770 crores, in our irrigation projects in the country during the last twenty years and we are suffering a loss of about Rs. 140 crores every year. That is what a Member of the Planning Commission has said. Will the hon. Minister consider this very serious situation and take appropriate steps, particularly, with regard to policy decisions in three respects that is, firstly, along with irrigation projects, the field channels should be simultaneously dug; secondly, that the beneficiaries should be exempted from paying any tax for at least two years in order to enable them to get used to it and, thirdly, in view of the fact that underground water level of canal areas rises up causing water logging he will also provide for augmentation canals for the irrigation projects particularly in the north-eastern zone of the country?

DR K. L. RAO : The irrigation projects require a considerable amount of money. We are equally proud that we have built a very magnificent system of irrigation. In the last 25 years, we have actually doubled what we had already before. It is a very good performance that we have had in the field of irrigation. But still I agree that a lot more requires to be done.

With regard to the utilisation of irrigation, as the statement has mentioned, the utilisation was only 60 per cent in the First Plan, 70 per cent in the Second Plan, 80 per cent in the Third Plan and now it is 90 per cent (agree) with the hon. Member that we

should make use of every inch of irrigated potential. We are anxious about it. That is why we have appointed a Committee with the Minister of Irrigation of Maharashtra State as the Chairman. They are taking a lot of interest; they are going round all the places. I will pass on the various suggestions made by the hon. Member to them. They will make a recommendation as to what positive steps should be taken to utilise every inch of irrigated potential.

Fire in O & NGC well No. 109 at Lakwa, Assam

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***306. SHRI R. S. PANDEY :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAI :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the O&NGC's Oil Well No. 109 at Lakwa near Sibsagar in Assam has been on fire for a long time causing a loss of crores of rupees;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into the breaking out of the fire in the said oil well and the loss suffered therefrom; and

(c) the action taken against those responsible for the fire?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) No, Sir. There was no fire but a "blow-out" in which oil and gas under pressure came out of the well in an uncontrolled manner.

(b) and (c). A high-level Enquiry Committee has been set up by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to enquire into the causes of the "blow-out" and to fix responsibility in case it was due to negligence on the part of any one, although such mishaps are not unknown in the oil industry.

श्री राम लक्ष्मण शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस प्रश्न के पूछने का एक मतलब यह भी था कि मैं मध्य प्रदेश के जलवायु अथॉरिटी में भी विलयस्वी दखता हूँ। देश के कुएँ में धातु

लग जाए और करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान हो, एक हाई पावर कमीशन एपवाईट किया गया हो और उसका कोई रिजल्ट न आया हो, ऐसी हालत में मैं भी यह जानना चाहूंगा कि चाहे आग लगी हो, चाहे ब्लो अप हुआ हो, चाहे कुछ भी हुआ हो, कितने रुपये का नुकसान उस में हुआ और किन परिस्थितियों में ऐसा हुआ तथा जो हाई पावर कमीशन आप ने बनाया उस की रिपोर्ट कब तक आ जायेगी ।

श्री देव कान्त बरुआ : माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है कि आग लग गई तो आग तो लगी नहीं । आग लगना बन्द किया गया । जब ब्लो अप होता है, गैस और तेल निकलता है तो उस का आग लगना बन्द करने के लिए वायु वाष्प बनाई जाती है, उस से ह्यमिडिटी तैयार की जाती है । तो जल वाष्प और वायु से उसे को बन्द किया गया । यह शुरू हुआ था 9 तारीख को और उस को बन्द किया गया 22 तारीख को । इसीलिए आग लगी नहीं है । और अभी कितना नुकसान हुआ है यह कहना मुश्किल है क्योंकि यह प्रोडक्शन बेल नहीं था । यह एक्सप्लोरेटरी बेल था । इसीलिए यह प्रश्न का उत्तर इस समय देना संभव नहीं है क्योंकि एक्सप्लोरेटरी बेल में कितना क्या है इस के बारे में कोई ज्ञांन नहीं की जाती । जब वह प्रोडक्शन में आता है तब पता लगाया जाता है कि कितना तेल और गैस है ।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि नेचरल गैस जब हम ड्रिलिंग मशीन से अपरेट करते हैं, खोदते हैं, उस समय यह संभावना कि इस में गैस निकलेगी, इस में फायर भी हो सकता है, ब्लो अप भी हो सकता है, इस का क्या प्रीकाशन लिया जाता है ?

श्री देवकान्त बरुआ : यह तो कहना बड़ा मुश्किल है कि इस में तेल निकलेगा या गैस निकलेगी । वह तो 3 हजार 8 सौ मीटर के नीचे जब प्रेशर निकला तब पता चला कि इस में तेल है और गैस है, दोनों का प्रेशर आ

रहा है । क्यों कि उस में छिद्र किया जाता है । उस से निकल आई गैस । तो यह तो संभावना रहती है । इसलिए उस को बन्द करने के लिए एक ब्लो आउट प्रिबेन्टर की मशीन होती है उस को उस के ऊपर इस्तेमाल किया जाता है । और दूसरे आग न लगने के लिए इस में होज पाइप से पानो दे कर उस में ह्यमिडिटी पैदा की जाती है । सदस्य महोदय को याद होगा इस के पहले भी 1966 में दर सागर में ब्लो आऊट से आग लग गई थी और उस से काफी नुकसान हुआ था । इस दफे वह नुकसान नहीं हुआ क्यों कि उस का प्रतिकार किया गया ।

SHRI D. D. DESAI: The hon. Minister has mentioned about preventive measure. I believe, he is referring to the Christmas trees. The Russian type of Christmas tree that we have got is costlier and also it requires two persons to operate the valves being very high. Why should we not think of installing a Christmas tree which could be operated from the ground, hardly a couple of feet high, so that in case of fire, the well can be immediately sealed and the fire put off. Our selection of Christmas tree has been faulty. Would the hon. Minister consider changing the Christmas tree from the Russian design to the American design?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The Christmas tree is not used for prevention of blow-out. It is meant only to seal the well once we have decided that there is to be production in the well. The Christmas tree is altogether a different thing. It has nothing to do with prevention of blow-out.

श्री लालजी भाई : काफी देरे तक आग लगती रही तो कितना नुकसान उसमें हुआ ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिए, आग नहीं लगी ।