

श्री हुकले शब्द कछुवा : मिलावट के लिए कोई कानून सरकार ने बनाया है क्या ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने बतलाया तो है कि कानून है।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय शायद आपकी याद होगा कुछ साल पहले इस महान सरकार ने गंगा जी में प्राय लगाने का करिष्मा करके दिखाया था। बरोनी से जो चोरी का तेल निकाला जाता है वह एक दिन पकड़ा जा रहा था इस लिये गंगा जी में बहा दिया गया और मेरी जानकारी है कि न केवल बरोनी रिफाइनरी से बल्कि भारत की हर सरकारी रिफाइनरी से चोरी का पेट्रोल बड़े पैमाने पर बाहर जाता है इसका कोई दाम सरकार को मिलता नहीं है और पब्लिक को भी उसका कोई फायदा नहीं होता है और उसी में मिलावट ज्यादा होती है तो क्या सरकार (व्यवधान) क्या आप स्वीकर हैं ? मैं तो देख रहा हूँ कांग्रेस पार्टी के सारे सदस्य स्वीकर बन गए हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : स्वीकर को आप बीच में मत लाइये।

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या सरकार इस चोरी के पेट्रोल की जांच करेगी जिसके जरिए बड़े पैमाने पर मिलावटी पेट्रोल वितरित किया जाता है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बड़ा सीधा सा सवाल शुरू हुआ था।

श्री मधु लिमये : चोरी का पेट्रोल मिलावटी पेट्रोल बन कर बाजार में बेचा जाता है।

श्री बलबीर सिंह : अगर माननीय सदस्य इस क्वेश्चन की कोई शिकायत मेरी नॉटिस में लायेंगे तो उस पर कीर्तिका की जायेगी।

श्री मधु लिमये : आपका सिक्योरिटी विभाग क्या करता है जो रिफाइनरी में होता है ? हर प्रश्न का यह उत्तर नहीं हो सकता है। (व्यवधान)।

Meeting of Chief Ministers of Drought affected states in New Delhi

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*823. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he attended the meeting of the Chief Ministers of all drought affected States which was convened in New Delhi on the 21st March, 1973;

(b) whether question of water for irrigation purposes also figured in the deliberations; and

(c) if so, the decisions arrived at?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a). A Conference of Chief Ministers was held in New Delhi on 24-2-1973 to discuss and finalise taking over of wholesale trade in wheat. This was not attended by the Minister of Irrigation and Power. There was no Conference of Chief Ministers on drought affected areas on 21st March, 1973.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHR P. GANGADEB: Although the conference did not discuss specifically the drought situation in the country, now that summer months are on, I would like to know whether the Centre has made any survey of the last year's drought affected areas of Orissa and if so, what measures are proposed to meet the situation, including tubewells, lift irrigation facilities etc. already sanctioned or proposed to be sanctioned in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): No particular or special measures have been taken in Orissa State. So far as emergency agricultural production is concerned, the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 150 crores, for the various States to take up emergency schemes which the hon. Member mentioned like lift irrigation, tubewells, electrification of tubewells etc. Orissa was also given a certain amount of money for that. I do not know exactly whether it has done well or not. Since every State has done fairly well, I am sure Orissa would have done its own part.

SHRI P. G. DEB: May I know whether the Government are considering having artesian wells, as in Australia, in the areas chronically affected by drought conditions in India?

DR. K. L. RAO: Artesian wells are nature's gift. It is a well which will bring water higher than the ground level. It is not possible to have artesian wells wherever one likes. I do not know whether the hon. Member has in mind any particular area. If it is possible to have such wells in any area, it would be our endeavour to have such wells there.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that this meeting was not attended by the Minister of Irrigation and Power. Therefore, nothing much remains to be asked. I would like to know whether the Irrigation and Power Minister was invited to attend this meeting. Secondly, is he aware of the fact that there is acute shortage of foodgrains in the whole country and the condition is very serious in the State of Gujarat. Is there any proposal for early implementation of the Narmada Project to improve the condition of the drought-prone areas of Gujarat?

DR. K. L. RAO: This question relates to the Ministry of Agriculture; it

was wrongly addressed to my Ministry. By the time we drew the attention of the concerned authorities it was too late to transfer it and that is why I am answering it. Even then, in case the questions become too difficult for me, as a precautionary measure I have requested my Colleague, the Minister of State for Agriculture to be present here. That is why he is here.

So far as drought in Gujarat is concerned it is very well known that it is one of the worst drought-affected areas in the country. A number of projects have to be taken up. The Narmada has to be tapped. That is the aim of the Government.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: He is always keeping quiet about the Narmada Project.

MR. SPEAKER: Why bring all this on this simple question? You cannot bring Narmada every time. It is not relevant here.

SHRI JAGANATHA RAO: Apart from sinking tubewells in the drought affected areas in various States, is there any scheme with the Ministry for the construction of temporary bunds in running streams and some minor irrigation schemes so that the difficulties could be warded off?

DR. K. L. RAO: Those minor irrigation schemes are dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: In view of the fact that a large number of irrigation projects, particularly in the drought-affected areas of our country, with which both the Irrigation Ministry as well as the Chief Ministers of States are concerned, are tied up in the form of inter-State water disputes, be it Cauvery, Narmada, Tapi, Krishna or Godavari will the hon. Minister consider the question of nationalising all the river resources in the national interest so that we can solve the problems of the drought-affected and famine-prone areas?

DR. K. L. RAO: I am thankful to the hon. Member that he is giving very

good support to ensure that these disputes are resolved as early as possible and to see that water is considered as a national asset.

श्री राजाबतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने सूखे से ग्रसित राज्यों में सिंचाई की कोई विशेष व्यवस्था करने की कोई योजना बनायी है? यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है?

MR. SPEAKER: The main Question was as to whether he attended the Chief Ministers' Conference. Now you are asking that. I am so sorry. How fertile is the brain!

AN HON. MEMBER: The brain is very much irrigated!

DR. K. L. RAO: It is a fact that one-third of our country is subject to very heavy chronic droughts and every effort should be made to give maximum irrigation to these drought-affected areas. That is the main recommendation. Therefore, every effort will be made that these drought-affected areas are given as much irrigation as possible.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that in Andhra Pradesh so many projects are pending for completion. In view of the unprecedented drought conditions in Andhra Pradesh, may I know whether the Central Government is proposing to sanction the necessary amount for completion of these projects, particularly, the Maner project?

MR. SPEAKER: You should ask whether this was also discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference.

DR. K. L. RAO: The Government is fully aware of the importance of irrigation and to bring as much land under irrigation as possible. Therefore, the Government is selecting

some projects where we are trying to give extra additional assistance to complete the projects as early as possible.

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether a point was discussed at the Chief Ministers' Conference that the drought-affected belt along the sub-Himalayan region can get water only if deep drilling rigs are made available and, if so, whether the hon. Minister will pool the special rigs made available from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, the Geological Survey of India, the Ground Water Survey, etc. so that the people of this region can get irrigation?

SHRI KRISHNA CHADRA HALDER: I would like to know from the hon. Minister....

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI: Sir, my question has not been replied.

MR. SPEAKER: There was no question; you gave some information. He is keeping quite over it.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the districts of Bankura and Purulia in West Bengal are continuously drought-affected areas and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take to provide irrigation to these districts of Bankura and Purulia which are drought-affected areas.

DR. K. L. RAO: These two districts are drought-affected areas in West Bengal. We would like to put more land under irrigation.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: The sub-soil water in the drought-affected State of Gujarat has gone down very much and there is aggression of saline water from the sea. May I know what steps Government want to take in this matter? Also, will he request the Prime

Minister to give her award regarding Narmada Project before the end of this Session?

DR. K. L. RAO: The sub-soil water will always go down in times of drought, and nothing can be done except waiting for the rainfall.

Regarding Narmada Project, as I submitted earlier, all these matters have been placed before the Prime Minister. I hope, the award will be given in a short time. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The main question was 'whether he attended the meeting of the Chief Ministers of all drought-affected States and whether the question of water for irrigation purposes also figured in the deliberations'. But its scope is being expanded very far. Already 40 minutes are over in the Question Hour and we have not gone beyond the third question.

Next Question. Mr. Shyam Sunder Mohapatra.

Subarnarekha Project in Orissa

*824. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made on Subarnarekha Project in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). In November, 1970 the State Government of Orissa had formulated a scheme consisting of embankments and drainage improvement in the lower reaches of Subarnarekha at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.48 crores to give relief to the area from floods

and drainage congestion. After examination of the scheme in the Central Water and Power Commission and taking into account the increase in the depth of inundation and the problem of rehabilitation of the people between the embankments, it was suggested that the possibility of storage reservoirs in the upper reaches for moderation of floods lower down should be investigated. A Technical Committee appointed by the Centre in August, 1972 is examining this aspect. The scheme is to be finalised based on the report of the Committee which is likely to be ready by June, 1973.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: The hon. Minister is aware that the Subarnarekha Project has passed through various Ministries successively from 1952 till now. I want to put this question whether the Technical Committee which the Ministry has now appointed will be the last Committee in this regard and whatever be the decisions of the Committee will be worked out by the end of this year.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): The flood control problem of Subarnarekha is one of the difficult problems in the country. Actually one project was sanctioned for West Bengal but it could not be implemented because the people protested and there were difficulties. Now the suggestion is building storage reservoirs in the upper reaches. A Committee has been appointed to examine this and it is in the process of investigation. I hope, the Committee will be able to give a proper solution. I will not be able to say straightway that that will be the best solution. I must await the report.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: We understand that there is going to be a big dam in Bihar and two small dams in West Bengal and Orissa. Pending construction of dams, will the hon. Minister request the Government of Orissa to take up the drainage channel so that there will be no menace of floods?