

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?

DR. K. L. RAO: Yes, Sir, as I submitted earlier, we wanted to effect the flood control in the Subarnarekha river by storage reservoirs. It envisages construction of storages on the Subarnarekha at Chandil and on its tributary at Chaibasa and on the Dulong river in West Bengal and we have got to depend on that.

The suggestion made by the hon. Member is one of the measures to be taken up, that is to say, to construct drainages at the end to drain off the water as much as possible. I was also thinking of that. I hope to recommend it for the first stage of construction.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Thank you.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: With regard to this ten crore project of Subarnarekha embankment—Rs. 8 crores on the Orissa side and Rs. 2 crores on the West Bengal side, the work was sanctioned but it was suddenly stopped on representation by somebody. It took several years to bring the two Governments of Orissa and West Bengal to the same table and take the final decision. Now, the hon. Minister is going to involve another Government, the Government of Bihar and to make a complete realignment of the project. Now, it is two years since the alternative decision was taken. I want to know from you as to how long you would take to make a final decision about this new realignment involving three States and that is the specific question for which I want to know the answer from you. How long would you take and when is this project going to be executed?

DR. K. L. RAO: The original project, as I submitted earlier, consisted of embankments in Orissa territory and also in West Bengal. One was estimated at Rs. 1.25 crores and the other was estimated at Rs. 10 crores. Only the West Bengal project was sanctioned and also it was going to be implemented. At that stage, people came up and the people were living between the embankment where the water level would

rise by 8' after the construction of the embankment. Therefore, naturally, they protested and the number of people involved is not an ordinary number. It is 70000 to 80000 people and a huge number of villages is also involved. Therefore, it could not be implemented. Then we thought of the other method of trying to control by storage reservoirs. In order to reduce the time limit, we have appointed a committee and I hope the committee will be submitting its findings in the month of June. Thereafter we will take a decision as quickly as possible.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Pending finalisation of the comprehensive scheme for the Subarnarekha basin on the basis of the report of the Technical Committee, I want to know whether the State Government of Orissa has submitted any scheme to the Irrigation & Power Ministry so that the drainage scheme of Bagarai and Jaleswar area of Balasore district can be taken up immediately before this Rs. 10 crore project is finalised.

DR. K. L. RAO: It is a small scheme and it would not answer the purpose. We have asked the Orissa Government to go ahead with these two but we expect a much more comprehensive scheme on drainage.

#### Requirement and supply of Residual Fuel Oil to Dhuvaran Power Plant

\*825. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the requirement of Residual Fuel Oil for Dhuvaran Power Plant in Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the quantity supplied during the said period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The requirements of the Dhuvaran Thermal Power Station in Gujarat for low sulphur heavy stock, locally known as residual fuel