

DR. K. L. RAO: As I submitted earlier, those States which have taken up the programme of rural electrification have done better. It is for the State Governments to take it up. These eastern States have not attached any importance to rural electrification in earlier years. In West Bengal, for example, the total number of pump sets today is less than 2,000 whereas in Tamil Nadu it is 6 lakhs. It is a question of giving priority and trying to do the work. There is ample money available for this work.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Why did he not draw the attention of the State Government? This type of answer was given on the floor of the House several times. It is the responsibility of the hon. Minister also; it is in his interest also to see that agricultural production is increased.

MR. SPEKER: Kindly sit down.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: From the statement, it appears that up till now, 1,22,144 villages have been electrified all over the country. Now, the total number of villages comes to more than seven lakhs. So, in 26 years, you have electrified 1,22,144 villages. Therefore, can we expect that all the remaining villages—six lakh odd—will be electrified in another 100 years or 150 years?

DR. K. L. RAO: The hon. Member has done some wrong calculation. The total number of villages in the country is not seven lakhs but 56 lakhs. More and more villages are being electrified as we go along. (Interruption) With regard to the other question, we are proceeding very well in the matter of rural electrification, and it is only a question of implementation that has to be speeded up of the works that have been sanctioned.

Reconstitution of Tungabhadra Project Board

*492. SHRI D. E. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is drawing 525 cusecs of additional water to which it is not entitled from the Tungabhadra Project;

(b) whether the State Government of Mysore have approached the Centre for reconstitution of the Tungabhadra Project Board; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

Statement

(a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a). No, Sir. The water supplied to Andhra Pradesh was on the basis of actual releases during the corresponding month of last year, after imposing the cut of 25% found necessary this year.

(b) and (c). The Government of Mysore have been urging the abolition of the Tungabhadra Board, while the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been re-presenting that the functions of the Board be extended to include the left side of the project, Rajolibanda Head Works and Munirabad Power House. The Government of Andhra Pradesh also made a formal request for the adjudication of these issues and the matter has been referred to the Krishna Waters Tribunal. In the circumstances it has been considered desirable to defer the consideration of the matter till the award of the Tribunal becomes available.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : Sir, I find that the answer clearly says that there is a real difference between the stands taken by the States of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons advanced by the Government of Mysore for the abolition of the Tungabhadra Board. This is the first part of my question.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): The Tungabhadra dam is situated in Mysore State, and therefore, the Mysore State thinks that the dam and the canal lying within their territory must be controlled by them. The Andhra Pradesh Government says that the water coming through the canal cannot be ensured unless there are regulatory arrangements. Therefore, the Government constituted a Board in 1953 for the regulation of waters of the Tungabhadra system, and as I have submitted in the answer, we are waiting for the Krishna Waters Tribunal's award to be finalised before we can take up further steps.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : My question has not been answered. What are the reasons advanced by the Government of Mysore for the abolition of the Tungabhadra Board ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I have answered in the very beginning that the Tungabhadra dam being located in the Mysore State, the Mysore State thinks that it should be under their control.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : My second question—

MR SPEAKER : Is it still second ?

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : Yes, because I wanted just a clarification. Now, what are the reasons for referring this matter to the Krishna Waters Tribunal? What bearing has the Krishna Waters Tribunal so far as the Tungabhadra Board is concerned ?

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DR. K. L. RAO : Tungabhadra is part of the Krishna river. All these problems have been referred to the Krishna Waters Tribunal for their consideration and for their decision.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : May I know whether the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power has been drawn to the reported press news item that the constitution of the Tungabhadra Board is a flagrant violation of certain principles involved and they are also allowing water unauthorisedly to Andhra Pradesh ? To set right things, this Board has not been reconstituted. This matter has been engaging the attention of the Krishna Waters Tribunal which has no relevance to the facts. So, what is the reaction of the Ministry so far as this aspect is concerned, namely, in letting out water which has been the right of the Mysore State ? All along when the Board has been violating the rules, what steps did the Government of India take in this regard ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Letting out water from the Tungabhadra outlet is regulated by the Board consisting of the representatives of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh Governments and the Central Government. So, this is being done strictly according to the rules.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: But, the officers on the Board are violating the rules. Still water scarcity is there.

Mr. SPEAKER : Please allow the hon. Minister to reply. What is wrong with you, Shri Lakkappa ? Why don't you listen to him ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I was saying that water what Andhra Pradesh wants is being released strictly under the rules. And not a bit of extra water is released to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Sir, my question has still not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Then, put it next time.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Why next time ? Still, that part of my question has not been answered by the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : The other gentleman standing near you is very tall.

SHRI SHIVAPPA : Please sit down so that I can see him properly.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : As I said, that aspect has not been answered by the Hon. Minister. That is a clear violation of the rules. The water has gone to the Andhra State whereas they are not entitled to that.

MR. SPEAKER : What do you mean by this ? You do not want to sit down.

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, the news item is wrong. Water is released strictly according to rules and regulations laid down. And not a bit of extra water has been given to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. MALLANNA : In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, I want to know whether it is a fact that in regard to Krishna Basin, more quantity of water is utilised by the Andhra Pradesh Government ? If so, why you have allowed more water than what the Andhra State is entitled to ? What action has been taken to get justice to the Mysore State and other neighbouring States. What is the extra quantity of water that has been utilised by the Andhra Pradesh Government ?

DR. K. L. RAO : As I submitted earlier, no extra water has been given to the Andhra Pradesh Government. And so this question does not arise at all.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shivappa.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I am referring to the Krishna Basin.

MR. SPEAKER : I request you to please sit down. All the three members are from Mysore. And I believe the Minister is also from Mysore. *(Interruption)*

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Sir, the hon. Minister is avoiding this.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you mean to say that by doing this, you will get more water ? Why don't you sit down, Shri Lakkappa ? Shri Shivappa.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : In view of the reply of the Hon. Minister about the Board problem being tagged on to Krishna water dispute, whether the Minister has consulted the Government of Mysore and whether there are any terms and conditions embodied in their commitment for the two States about the regulation of water of Krishna. When the matter of discharge of excess water is involved, why has the Minister not looked into the affairs earlier and clarified the matter ?

The excess water discharge has hard hit the drought stricken people in certain areas. Why no steps have been taken to punish those middle agencies who violated the terms and conditions in the discharge of excess water ?

DR. K. L. RAO : As I have already submitted, these were done by a Board consisting of the representatives of both the States and the Centre. In fact, what was done this year—that is 25% cut was due to shortage of water in the reservoir.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Sir, he has not come out with any answer to this question.

MR. SPEAKER : The question hour is over.
