

सम्यक् महोदय : सवाल तो गुजराल कमेटी से चलता है कुछ उस से चल कर राज भाषा में चले गए और फिर दूसरे मिट्टी में आ गए कि उर्दू हमारी मिट्टी की जवान है और आप तरीकाए मोहब्बत बताने लगे ।

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार साल्वे : देवनागरीलिपि में रिपोर्ट तो आए ताकि हमारे जैसे इल्लिटरेट लोग उसे पढ़ सकें ।

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): The report of the Committee will be placed on the Table of the House. . . .

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: When? It was constituted in 1972.

PROF. S NURUL HASAN. When the Committee submit, its report and after it has been considered by the Government, the report will be placed on the Table of the House in accordance with the normal procedure

World Bank Development Project for Drought-Prone Areas

*86. SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

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

(a) whether Gujarat State have protested to the Central Government for not giving fair treatment while selecting six districts for the Rs. 82 crore World Bank Development Project for the drought-prone areas;

(b) the main reasons for not including Gujarat Districts under the said scheme; and

(c) whether the project will give much benefit to the States of Maharashtra and Rajasthan whereas Gujarat, though worst affected by continuous drought, has been left out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The World Bank wanted to take up a small programme as a pilot pro-

ject. In view of the equally deserving claims of several districts in several states, it is inevitable that some states should get excluded from the World Bank Assistance.

(c) Under the World Bank aided projects, the six districts selected in the four states of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh will get additional financial assistance from the Centre to be matched equally by the state governments.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: In view of the recent Rome Conference deliberations, it is more likely that more aid from international agencies will be forthcoming for chronically drought-affected areas including those in India and it is natural that each State feel that they should get advantage of these schemes. From the statement of the Minister, it seems that only six districts have been selected and in Maharashtra, the two districts of Sholapur and Ahmednagar whose soil and crop conditions are the same have been selected instead of districts with different crop conditions and soil conditions like Konkan and Marathwada. In view of this I would like to know whether the State Governments were consulted before proposing the districts for World Bank assistance and any committee of experts were appointed to ensure that the selection of districts was based on certain objective criteria and definite guidelines to avoid bickering among the States?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: As the hon. Member knows, we have already under implementation about 72 drought-prone area projects. This offer by the World Bank was only for a limited number. Initially we proposed 16 districts. Then they sent a team and the team said that they would like to take up 6 projects in four districts. We are expecting that some more districts under the World Bank programme will be taken up. If that happens, we

will give to the States more projects. That does not mean that these programmes are not operating in other districts. They are already in operation, 72 of them.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: Not World Bank assistance.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: The World Bank assisted districts get a Central assistance of Rs. 4 crores. Other districts get a Central assistance of Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 30 lakhs depending on the area covered under the programme in the district. Therefore there is very little difference.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: What is the total assistance we are getting from the World Bank for these drought-prone areas?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: The total assistance from the World Bank would be about 35 million dollars.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA: It is surprising that the Central Government does not consider Gujarat to be a drought-prone area. I would like to know whether there were any proposals from the Gujarat Government to include some of the districts or some of the projects like the Amreli dairy project and a desalination plant on the Saurashtra Coast to be included in this programme?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: We certainly agree that there are certain areas in Gujarat which are prone to drought. Already we have plan projects in operation in the Panchmahals, Kutch, Jamnagar, Amreli and Surendra Nagar etc. These are programmes under the drought-prone areas projects although they may not be World Bank programmes. But the same is going on under our own programmes as the World Bank's assistance is very limited.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether

it is a fact that in the eastern region also, as in the case of West Bengal, the districts of Bankura, Purulia and Midnapore are drought-prone areas and also there are drought-prone areas in the States of Orissa, Bihar and UP. So, I would like to know as to what are the drought-prone areas identified in the eastern region, particularly, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar and what kind of projects are being implemented there and the reason for not setting up even one World Bank aided project in West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to Gujarat and Maharashtra

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The hon. Minister said that there are about 72 projects. My question arises out of that

MR. SPEAKER: Are the 72 projects for these two States or are they for all the States?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: These 72 projects are for 13 States. In West Bengal we have Purulia, Midnapore and Bankura; in Orissa we have Kalahandi and Phulbani and in Bihar also similarly we have large numbers, Monghyr, Palamau, Nawada and Rohtas; these are all projects which are in operation in these areas. And roughly the amount of money spent on each project will be to the extent of about Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 6 crores including contribution depending on the area covered under the programme.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What was the criteria fixed? What was the norm on the basis of which the World Bank selected those drought-prone areas? Was it done exclusively by Central Government or was the World Bank asked to take up those districts? Did they have their own criteria for that purpose, on the basis of which they selected those drought-prone districts in the country?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: The main criteria fixed by World Bank was this; that these projects would have to be in the form of pilot projects restricted to areas which are really having difficult problems. They wanted to restrict it to those areas where we have dry farming projects already in operation; they wanted to link up their activities with dry farming area. That was the main criteria. Irrigation facilities would be provided, animal husbandry and other projects will also be taken up.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Minister while telling about the DPAP mentioned certain districts of Gujarat like Kutch, Surendranagar, Banaskantha, Amreli and Jamnagar and such other districts. What is the reason for not including these districts in the new projects in respect of which World Bank Developmental aid is coming to us? Gujarat is having the worst drought now for the last 75 years. Why were these Gujarat districts not included in these programmes which are to be aided by the World Bank?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: That was because the World Bank programmes was restricted only to six districts and go on. We have to select some districts. We had to select some States. We had to leave out the rest. Because, if we do not do that, the same thing will be said about some other States also.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Government tell us whether those districts in the other States were more drought affected than the districts of Gujarat? If that is so, then, we will agree to the point which he has brought. Will the Government therefore tell us whether those districts in other States were according to Government information more severely affected by drought?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: Initially we proposed 16 districts and later on they cut it to 6 (six) districts and now World Bank is how

ing more interest in more districts and when that comes we will certainly try to give it to Gujarat.

DR. KAILAS: Did the World Bank team visit drought-prone areas of Gujarat or not? If they visited why did they reject those districts of Gujarat?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: They visited certain areas and they fixed certain criteria and according to that criteria Gujarat could not be brought in. The number was very limited. As I said, we will try to include Gujarat in the next lot.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if he has taken up drought question with the World Bank, why not he take up the question of real chronic disease like flood which has chronically affected various districts of Assam. Why were they not included? Why should they not be included in the matter of utilising the aid and distribution of the money?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: This question particularly related to the drought-prone areas. When the question of flood comes, then we will deal with it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know from the Minister whether they would accept the suggestion for setting up a coordination committee involving Members of Parliament to supervise and monitor the schemes which are there for giving assistance to the drought prone areas?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: We have no such scheme but if any Member is interested in visiting those areas he is welcome to do so.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: I would like to know whether there is any proposal to get more assistance from the World Bank in view of the magnitude of the problem of drought. If so, what are those proposals?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: The World Bank shows interest in various projects from time to time and whenever they make any funds available