

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

2

LOK SABHA

Statement

Tuesday, November 23, 1971 | Agrahayana 2,
1893 (Saka)

Alignment of Western Kosi Canal in Nepalese Territory

The Lok Sabha met at three minutes past
Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

(a) As a result of discussions held by the Union Minister of Irrigation and Power and officers of the Ministry with His Majesty's Government in October, 1971. His Majesty's Government have agreed to make available land for the Western Kosi Canal by February, 1972 at the latest. A number of other points pending on the Kosi and Gandak projects were also settled during these discussions and guidelines agreed to for expediting the progress of several programmes envisaged in these projects.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Alignment of Western Kosi Canal in Nepalese Territory

+

*182. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL :

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

The Western Kosi Canal will irrigate about 8 lakh acres in Bihar. It will also serve about 1 lakh acres in Nepal, including lift irrigation from the canal and modernisation, improvement and extension of the Chandra canal System.

(a) whether approval from the Government of Nepal for the proposed alignment of the Western Kosi canal in the Nepalese territory as also about Gandak Project has been secured and if so, the broad outlines of the project;

(b) and (c). The Western Kosi Canal is assessed to cost about Rs. 37 Crores. At the time of formulation of the Fourth Plan, His Majesty's Government's clearance was still awaited, and a token provision of Rs. 50 lakhs was made in Bihar's developmental plans.

(b) the total estimated expenditure on the completion of the Western Kosi Canal and whether the same is being fully provided for in the Fourth Plan; and

Details of the construction programme are being worked out by the Government of Bihar. A project of the magnitude of Western Kosi Canal will require 4 to 5 years for its complete implementation.

(c) what is the schedule for the acquisition of land, beginning of excavation and completion of the project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B.N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक पश्चिमी कोसी नहर का मामला है यह सदन को ज्ञात है कि पिछले 16 वर्षों में तीन बार इस कोसी नहर के कार्य का बाकायदा उद्घाटन हो चुका है लेकिन एक या दूसरे बहाने से यह टलता गया है। सब से आखिरी बहाना मेरी समझ में जो नेपाल सरकार का उस के बारे में था वह भी अब दूर हो गया है तो मैं आप के जरिए

मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि इस 37 कगेड की परियोजना के लिए सिर्फ 50 लाख रुपये की व्यवस्था अभी तक की है तो इस में क्या यह नीयत है कि इस काम में 25, 30 साल और लगाये जायं ? क्या इस के लिए चौथी पंच साला योजना के अन्दर पूरी रकम की व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं, यदि हाँ, तो कब तक ?

इस में नेपाल के अन्दर जो खर्च होगा सब को मिला कर वह कुल कितना है और भारत में जो खर्च होगा वह कितना है ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि मया महोदय ने अपने मूल जवाब में जो यह बतलाया है कि फरवरी 72 में नेपाल सरकार पश्चिमी कोसी नहर के लिए जमीन उन को दे देगी तो क्या उस समय तक भारत में जो जमीन उस के लिए हासिल करनी है उसका उस समय तक प्राथमिकी-जीशन कर लेंगे ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K.L. RAO) : With regard to western Kosi Canal, I wish to state that irrigation projects fall under the State Governments and therefore it is for the Bihar Government to allot the funds for the project. Since the Nepal Government has cleared acquiring of the Western Kosi Canal, we are requesting the Bihar Government to allot more funds for this year and hereafter and if sufficient funds are available it will be possible to get these projects through in about 4 to 5 years. The amount of money required by the Bihar Government will be about Rs. 37 crores. Out of this Rs. 37 crores, the amount needed for the first portion of the canal will be about Rs. 6 crores. The funds for the special benefits that will accrue to Nepal by way of construction of canals will be about Rs. 3 crores. In other words, Rs. 9 crores will be in the Nepal territory and the balance will be in the Bihar territory.

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : जब तक नेपाल से इसके लिए जमीन मिल जायेगी उस समय तक भारत में भी जमीन हासिल करने के लिए क्या इन्त-

जाम किया जा रहा है इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय जवाब दें।

DR. K.L. RAO : The Government of Nepal have been kind enough to say that they will acquire 22 miles which is required for the main canal by February, 1972. It is a very good progress. The Government of Bihar have to follow up and acquire the lands in their territory. I expect that they will also do that and acquire simultaneously land for the main canal and the branches in the Bihar territory.

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह परियोजना दो देशों से सम्बन्ध रखती है। उस के लिए विलम्ब भी हुआ और अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि इस में 9 कगेड रुपया नेपाल राज्य के अन्दर खर्च होगा और बाकी का 28 कगेड रुपया भारत के अन्दर खर्च होगा। एक ही नहर का वह हिस्सा है जो दोनों में बहेगा। इस स्थिति को देखते हुए बार बार यह सवाल उठेगा कि नेपाल सरकार से सीधे बिहार सरकार या कोई राज्य सरकार इन मामलों को तय नहीं कर सकती तो इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्यों नहीं भारत सरकार इस परियोजना को अपने ही माफत ले लेती है और अपने से उसे चलानी है क्योंकि दो राज्यों के मामलों के भीतर बाग्यार बाधाएं आयेंगी और विलम्ब होगा तो क्यों नहीं भारत सरकार इस को अपने हाथ में ले लेती है ?

यहां जब यह 28 कगेड का है और अभी 30 लाख ही हमारा खर्चा गया है और यह परियोजना नहीं हो सकेगी। बिहार सरकार के लिए जो चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में प्राविजन है वह सब मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है और हालत यह है कि बिहार में सारा काम अगर बढ़ भी कर दिया जाय तब भी यह काम पूरा नहीं हो पायेगा। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इस कार्य को पूरा करने के हेतु विशेष रूप से कर्ज के रूप में या और किसी रूप में आर्थिक सहायता देने को तैयार है जिससे कि यह जमीन हासिल की जा सके नहीं तो यह विदेशी सीमा

का मामला बन कर रह जायेगा।

MR. SPEAKER : Let him not give the reasons. Let him stop with his question.

DR. K. L. RAO : I want to make it clear that the project costs Rs. 37 crores plus Rs. 3 crores for the special benefit projects, that is, projects which we give as special benefit to Nepal. So, the total amount is Rs. 40 crores. Out of this, Rs. 9 crores will be spent in Nepal territory and the balance of Rs. 31 crores will be spent in the Bihar territory.

This is an irrigation project. Therefore, the Government of India do not finance it directly. That is the policy at the moment that the Government of India do not finance an irrigation project directly. Whether it is good or not, whether it is correct or not is something which I cannot say at the moment. But the present policy is that the irrigation projects are all financed by their respective State Governments. But the money that is spent in Nepal as special benefit for that country, that is, Rs. 3 crores will come from the Government of India, and, the balance of Rs. 37 crores has to come from the Government of Bihar.

The hon. Member's statement that the Bihar Government do not have a sufficient amount of money with them is correct. That is one of the worrying things. The number of projects that have been taken up in Bihar is a very large one, and they will require in all about Rs. 400 crores. But the Plan provision in the Fourth Plan of Bihar is only Rs. 100 crores. So, that is one of the worrying things. It has to be sorted out somehow.

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे इस प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया कि केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं इस कार्य को अपने हाथ में क्यों नहीं ले लेती है क्योंकि यह दो देशों का मामला है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कह दिया है उन्होंने।

श्री राम चन्द्र बिकल : नेपाल सरकार से

जो अभी हमारा अंतिम रूप से फैसला हुआ है उसमें मुख्य बातें क्या हैं? क्या पानी के बटवारे के बारे में तय हुआ है कि कितना पानी भारत को मिलेगा और कितना नेपाल को मिलेगा और क्या उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार से भी उसका कुछ सम्बन्ध होगा?

DR. K. L. RAO : The agreement is in regard to both Kosi and Gandak. As regards the details, I am afraid it will take too long for me to go into them and I am not sure if the hon. Speaker will allow me that much time. There are four points of importance with regard to Kosi and there are four important points with regard to Gandak. All the eight have been agreed to by the Governments of Nepal and India.

श्री राम चन्द्र बिकल : मैं जानना चाहता था कि पानी के बटवारे के बारे में क्या तय हुआ है?

DR. K. L. RAO : The agreement also covers sharing of the water. The Nepal Government wanted 850 cusecs from the eastern canal of the Gandak project. That has been agreed to. With regard to allocation from the Kosi, there has been no disagreement.

MR. SPEAKER : Could he also answer the previous question whether the Government of India are prepared to take it over?

DR. K. L. RAO : I have already submitted that it is not the policy of Government to take over irrigation projects. Whether it is a wise decision or not is another matter. As a matter of fact, the entire Kosi barrage is in Nepal and that work has been done by the Government of Bihar. There has been no difficulty with regard to that and I do not see any reason why the Government of India should step in. There may be other reasons in that the Bihar has taken up a very big job in hand and some assistance to Bihar is called for. To that extent, I agree. But to say that because it is located in Nepal territory we should take it over is not a valid argument.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : Has the Gandak canal project been given a new schedule or does the old schedule stand in regard to completion time ?

DR. K. L. RAO : In regard to the Gandak project, so far as the Nepal Government is concerned, there has been complete agreement and there is no reason for any delay. But I am not happy with the way the project is going on. We have spent a lot of money and yet no utilisation has come out of it. Even yesterday the Governor of Bihar met me and I have taken up the matter with him. We are suggesting now that a team be constituted to go into the programming and scheduling of the work in connection with the project. We will await the team's report to reschedule the whole programme of work with a view to get as much utilisation as early as possible.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : Has a new schedule been fixed or the old schedule stands ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The old schedule will be adhered to ; if possible, we will try to improve on it.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पश्चिमी कोशी नहर के काम की जो स्वीकृति मिली है उस के सम्बन्ध में नेपाल की सीमा में वह काम कब तक पूरा कर लिया जायेगा और भारत की सीमा में कब तक हाथ में लिया जायेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो बतलाया जा चुका है, आप देर से आये हैं।

श्री सरजू पांडे : जैसा मेरे मित्र श्री भोगेन्द्र झा ने पूछा, अगर यह दो राज्यों का मामला है तो इस योजना को केन्द्रीय सरकार अपने हाथ में क्यों नहीं लेती और राष्ट्रीय द्रव्य बैंको से रुपया ले कर इस को पूरा क्यों नहीं किया जाता ? आखिर इस में क्या कठिनाई है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस प्रश्न का जवाब भी दिया जा चुका है।

Enrgisation of Pump-sets and Rural Electrification

+

*184. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**
SHRI P. GANGADEV :

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

(a) whether a blue-print for electrification of 2,33,000 villages and enrgisation of about five million pump-sets during 1971—81 has been prepared by his Ministry ; and

(b) if so, the total cost of the scheme ?

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

Statement

Enrgisation of Pump-sets and Rural Electrification

A perspective plan for the decade commencing from April, 1971 to March, 1981 for rural electrification with emphasis on enrgisation of pump-sets for increasing agricultural production has been prepared by the Central Water and Power Commission and circulated to the State authorities. This programme envisages enrgisation of 4.87 million pump-sets and electrification of 2,33,000 villages during the decade. The total outlay involved for the implementation of the decadal plan is estimated at Rs. 2270 crores. Subject to availability of these resources, it is expected that with the implementation of the decade plan, a total of 6.50 million pump-sets would be enrgised and 3,40,000 villages electrified by March, 1981 as compared to 1.64 million pump-sets enrgised and 1,07,000 villages electrified upto March, 1971.

SHRI P.M. MEHTA : What is the progress so far in respect of both physical and financial targets ? Also, what is the state-wise break-up in respect of these targets ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K.L. RAO) : In the