

MR. SPEAKER: So, it is in the process of improvement.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Yes, Sir.

Financial Assistance by L.I.C. to State Government of Maharashtra

*586. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has approached the Life Insurance Corporation of India for financial assistance for various piped water supply schemes;

(b) if so, the broad particulars thereof;

(c) whether the programme of piped water supply schemes in the State has come to a standstill because of non-availability of funds from the L.I.C.; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation and make available the required funds?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (d). The Government of Maharashtra has approached the LIC in April, 1977 for a loan of Rs. 450.69 lakhs for financing 30 urban water supply and sewerage schemes during the current year. A loan of Rs. 449 lakhs has been sanctioned by the LIC to the Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board for financing these schemes and this loan will be disbursed on finalisation of certain formalities. As regards rural water supply schemes, no proposal has been received by the LIC so far.

A reference has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra for larger allocation of funds for urban and rural water supply and sewerage schemes. The matter is under consideration.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Sir, I seek your protection. The hon. Minister has not answered part (c) of my question. The question is: whether the programme of piped water supply schemes in the State has come to a standstill because of non-availability of funds from the L.I.C.?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I will answer it now. The L.I.C. is not responsible for the total financing of any scheme. The scheme may come to a standstill because funds from the State or from other sources may not have come. So far as L.I.C. is concerned, whatever was undertaken by it, it has given.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: My question has not yet been answered. It seems to me that there are some contradictions in the written answer. It is stated that with regard to rural water supply schemes, no proposal has been received by the LIC so far. Subsequently, it is also stated that a reference has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra for larger allocation of funds for urban and rural water supply and sewerage schemes. The matter is under consideration. My point is: what are the particulars mentioned in the reference made by the State Government for larger allocations? Your written reply says that no proposal has been received so far. What is the present position? I think there are some contradictions in your written reply.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: There is no contradiction in whatever I have stated. I have stated that the reference was for higher allotment and that matter is under consideration. There is no contradiction.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Whether any proposal has been received so far?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: There is no proposal for a particular scheme. There is a reference for a general increase in allocation of funds. The two are quite different.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: There are as many as 4000 problem villages where we find that the drinking water supply scheme is yet to be implemented. There is an increasing demand from the rural population for the drinking water supply. But because of non-availability of funds, it has become impossible for the State Government to carry on these activities. The LIC has sanctioned a huge amount for construction of 5-Star hotels. While the LIC could sanction a huge amount for the construction of 5-Star hotels, no amount has been sanctioned for the water supply scheme in the rural areas. What is the urgency of having 5-Star hotels in the urban areas when the mass of the rural areas are in dire need of drinking water? What is the number of schemes sent by the state government of Maharashtra to the LIC and what is the number of schemes sanctioned?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: LIC is not concerned with the schemes; that is the business of the state government. The question with which LIC is really concerned is money for certain purposes like water supply. There will be allotment for schemes for the entire country. The Maharashtra government has received satisfactory amount for this year; for instance out of an allotment of Rs. 41 crores, the Maharashtra government will get Rs. 8 crores. Therefore you will see that the allotment that Maharashtra gets is substantial. LIC does not undertake to see that all the schemes that are approved by the Maharashtra government will be financed by it. This is the first point to be recognised. This year Rs. 4.5 crores were asked for by the Maharashtra government out of which Rs. 4.49 crores had been sanctioned. It is the Maharashtra government which decides which scheme is to be financed.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Taking into consideration the peculiar geographical conditions obtaining in Maharashtra, will the government assure the House that the schemes of

pipel water supply in the rural areas in Maharashtra would be sanctioned in sufficient number by the LIC and government?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I can give no such assurance. Government can give this assurance that whatever resources it can place at the disposal of the Maharashtra government out of the total quantum set aside for such social schemes will be made available. A substantial amount has been made available.

SHRI SONU SINGH PATIL: The hon. Minister says that out of a total demand of Rs. 41 crores, a sum of Rs. 8 crores had been sanctioned. This amount appears to be inadequate in view of the increasing demand for water supply. He was also pleased to state that loan was sanctioned by the LIC and certain formalities are to be gone through. What are the formalities which hold up the progress of the scheme and the disbursement of the amount?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: There has been no delay and nothing has been held up because of formalities or anything of the kind. I merely said that out of Rs. 4.5 crores asked for by the Maharashtra government, a sum of Rs. 4.49 crores had been sanctioned. Schemes that are approved by the Maharashtra government and that come along will be financed and are being financed.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Is it not a fact the LIC and other financing institutions are taking long time to process applications and then to disburse funds after processing is completed. How much time was taken, on an average, in processing one application and after processing how much time was taken in actual disbursement of funds? If he has not those figures now, he can supply them afterwards.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: If any specific instance is mentioned, it can be gone into.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Average time?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: There is no such thing as average time. All applications are being dealt with expeditiously and efficiently and if there is any instance that you can give me in which undue delay has taken place, I shall go into it.

SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE: In the last part of his reply he says that the matter is under consideration. May I know when a final decision will be taken in this matter?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The Maharashtra government has asked for large allocations than what has been its normal share. This is what is under consideration. That can be decided only when we receive requests from all other States. One of those State Governments which is very fortunate is the Government of Maharashtra. Governments like the Bihar Government did not take advantage of this scheme. If they also take advantage of this scheme, then the Government of Maharashtra will find it difficult to get so much.

(Interruptions)

श्री युवराज : क्या माननीय वित्त मंत्री यह बतायेंगे कि महाराष्ट्र के अलावा और किन-किन राज्यों द्वारा ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में जल-आपूर्ति और मल निकासी के लिए जीवन बीमा निगम से रुपये की मांग की गई ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I can give you figures. In the year 1973-74, Rs. 2263 lakhs were disbursed as loan for water supply schemes, of which, Uttar Pradesh got Rs. 153 lakhs, Tamil Nadu Rs. 303 lakhs, Rajasthan Rs. 95 lakhs, Maharashtra Rs. 345 lakhs, Kerala Rs. 477 lakhs, Karnataka Rs. 388 lakhs, Himachal Pradesh Rs. 8 lakhs, Haryana Rs. 136 lakhs, Gujarat Rs. 128 lakhs and Andhra Pradesh Rs. 230 lakhs. In the next year, Andhra Pradesh got nothing because

it did not ask for it. Gujarat got Rs. 47.5 lakhs, Karnataka Rs. 138 lakhs, Kerala Rs. 389 lakhs Madhya Pradesh Rs. 434 lakhs and so on. Each year it varies. Last year 1975-76... *(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Assam?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Assam has not got anything because it never asked for it.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: I know every inch of Maharashtra. I know as much as Mr. Dharia knows. I can put better questions than Maharashtrais. No difference should, therefore, be made.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Tamil Nadu was under the rule of the President. It is the duty of the representatives of the Government to ask and fight for more funds for the Tamil Nadu Water Supply Schemes. But nothing has been done in this regard for the past nine years for the simple reason that DMK rule was there. I would like to know what steps the Government proposes to take... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: We will go to the next question.

Overseas Market for Assam Bamboo Craft and Carve Products

*587. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam bamboo craft and carve products have export potentials and have also found good overseas market;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to rise their exports; and

(c) whether any foreign markets have been identified for export of these goods?