

SHRI BHAGAT RAM: Will the contents of tests be such for rural students that the solution to the problems posed would be available in the rural environment?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: As I said, this scholarship is open for finding out the National Science Talent. This Question is in respect of the places of habitation of the students. Anyway, formerly there were no data available because in the form no such personal data were provided. We were on the look-out whether that was possible. Now some are provided. I cannot give any assurance, but we can see if we can increase the number of scholarships later, so that more children may be involved in this.

श्रीमती बलबीर सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि देहातों में जो लायक लड़के मिलते हैं क्या उनमें से भी सेलेक्शन करने का कोई प्रणाली बनाये ? जितने लायक लड़के गहरों में मिलते हैं उतने ही लायक लड़के देहातों में भी मिलते हैं। गहरों के लड़कों में सिबाय बैठने-उठने के सलीके और बोड़े से कितारी ज्ञान के प्रभाव देहाती लड़कों में ज्यादा काबिलियत नहीं होती है। क्या मंत्री जी इस बात को देखते हुए और यह देखते हुए कि देहातों के काबिल से काबिल लड़के भी रह जाते हैं, ऐसे इम्तिहानों में नहीं आ पाते हैं, उनके सेलेक्शन का या एग्जामिनेशन का कोई ऐसा तरीका प्रणयोंगे जिससे देहातों के काबिल लड़कों को भी मिल सके और वे भी इसका फायदा उठा सकें ?

श्री० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : मान्यवर, तमाम मुल्क में तीन सी केन्द्र हैं जहाँ यह इम्तिहान हो रहा है। हम यह देखते हैं कि गहरों के लड़कों से आने वाले लड़कों में से लड़के में 54 रिजल्ट हो जाते हैं और देहाती लड़कों से जो लड़के आते हैं उनमें से लड़के में 20 रिजल्ट हो जाते हैं। इससे पता चलता

है कि हम देहातों के खिलाफ नहीं हैं। लेकिन हमारे पास साधन ज्यादा नहीं हैं इसलिए हम अधिक कुछ नहीं कर पाते हैं।

Rajasthan Canal

*741. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the original estimate of Rs. 184 crores for the Rajasthan Canal Project has gone up to Rs. 420.85 crores on account of delay in the completion of the project;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) how such reasons are being eliminated now?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Rajasthan Canal Project which was estimated to cost Rs. 184 crores, including share cost of the Beas Project, in 1963 is now expected to go up to about Rs. 480 crores due to several reasons including general increase in the price level of labour, materials and equipment; increase in the share cost of the Beas Dam at Pong; change in the scope of the Project with the introduction of Loonkansar..Bikaner Lift Scheme; provision for lining of branches, distributories and minors to minimise water losses; as also long period taken for completion of the Project. In the earlier stages, the progress on the Rajasthan Canal Project had been slow inter alia due to constraint of resources and non-availability of adequate quantities of water during non-Monsoon periods for drinking and construction purposes due to absence of a storage dam on Beas.

This is no longer the case. Against an average annual expenditure of over Rs. 4.9 crores during the five-year period preceding the Fourth Five-Year Plan and an annual expenditure of about Rs. 9.5 crores during the Fourth Five-Year Plan, the expenditure during the first three years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan has been about Rs. 63.43 crores and the expenditure during 1977-78 is likely to be Rs. 30 crores. With the considerably stepped up outlays, the engineering works on Rajasthan Canal Project are expected to be completed by 1983-84.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: It is very regrettable to note from the statement laid on the Table of the House that the Rajasthan Canal Project was taken up in 1963 and the minister has stated in his statement that it is expected to be completed by 1983-84, i.e. nearly 20 years for a project with an outlay of Rs. 184 crores as originally planned. This happened due to the people who are sitting in the Planning Commission or somewhere in...

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly come to the question

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Yes, Sir, I am coming to the question. It is very regrettable and the constraints mentioned by the minister in his statement, would have been expected even at the time of the planning itself. May I know whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned this enhanced estimated cost of Rs. 480 from Rs. 184 crores and whether the minister will assure the House that this project will be completed even before 1983-84?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: This is one of the biggest projects in the country. There were many constraints in the way and there have been revisions also. After the signing of the Indus Water Treaty in 1960, a revision was made in 1968. This was the first and the estimated cost at that

time was approximately Rs. 184 crores. The share of the cost of Pong Dam and Harika Barrage was Rs. 44 crores. And then, subsequently, in 1970 again a revision was made because of certain reasons. Now it was thought proper that to conserve the huge losses caused by unlined canal because it has to pass through a desert area, it was thought fit that the branches, distributories and minors should all be lined. So, the expenses on lining and also the expenses of this dam had increased. So, the total expenditure has also increased according to the second revision in 1970.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is only two-fold. One is, has the higher amount been sanctioned by the Planning Commission? The second is, are you assuring that it will be completed within the time fixed.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, I have to submit that for Stage I Rs. 176 crores have been sanctioned and about Stage II, still a revision has been made and it is still under the consideration of the Rajasthan Government and has not been finalised yet. But I would submit that it would be possible to complete this project before 1983-84.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: The hon. Minister has stated that some portion of the amount has not been sanctioned so far by the Planning Commission because of some additional expenditure being expected. So, this is the way of our Government machinery's approaching the Plans and the finalisation of the construction of this and other projects. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech last year had, stated that delay in the implementation of the projects has led to much more cost than was originally envisaged. This is a very important dam as far as Northern India is concerned. I would like to know whether this can be taken up on a war footing.

urgency and whether the Minister will again assure the House that it would be taken up immediately with the Planning Commission and the completion will be done shortly.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, the project is not being delayed for the lack of funds. Funds are available and have been allocated for the whole of this year. For next year also Rs. 30 crores have been allocated and the work is in progress in a big way on the project. While the project is going on, it is found that certain alterations are needed. That is the only thing that is pending now.

श्री दीक्षित राम सारन : क्या राजस्थान कैराल ये निकली वाली मिफ्ट मिवाइ योजना में इन प्रोजेक्ट के अन्दर सम्मिलित हैं और दूरी खर्च में शामिल है ? उनको भी इन फंड प्रोग्राम के अन्तर्गत क्या पूरा कर दिया जायेगा ?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The Loonkansan-Bikaner Lifer Scheme providing some branches, distributories and minors was taken up and that is a part of this project.

श्री बंगाराम चौहान : राजस्थान कैराल परियोजना एक बड़ी नहर है। परन्तु क्या यह सही नहीं कि उस नहर में जो सिमेंट और ईट लगाई जा रही हैं वह सिमेंट साग राजस्थान ही नहीं बल्कि हिन्दुस्तान में जा रहा है और वहाँ सिमेंट नहीं लग रहा है। नहर खादी और बनाई जा रही है। लेकिन उसमें सिमेंट न लग कर अल्पवय क्या बह भेजा जा रहा है ? मैंने इसके सम्बन्ध में कई पत्र मंत्री महोदय को लिखे हैं लेकिन उनका कोई उत्तर नहीं आया है। जो सिमेंट आदि राजस्थान कैराल में लगना चाहिये वह बीकानेर और गंगानगर और पंजाब में पहुँच रहा है और नहर में सिमेंट नहीं लग रहा है, क्या यह सही नहीं है ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : इस योजना का एक्सप्लान राजस्थान के इंजीनियर कर रहे हैं। यह बहुत बुरी बात है जैसा आप बता रहे हैं कि सिमेंट वहाँ नहर में न लग कर कहीं और जा रहा है।

I will look into this matter and make an enquiry into this.

Report of F.A.O. on Fall in Food Production

*744. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per latest FAO report, India is among the 48 "seriously affected" countries where food production per person decreased by 0.4 per cent during 1970-76; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) The FAO in its review on "The State of Food and Agriculture, 1977" circulated at the 19th Session of the FAO Conference held in November-December 1977 indicated that the average annual food production per capita during the period 1970-76 in the 45 Most Seriously Affected (MSA) countries including India declined by 0.4 per cent. This fall is accounted for mainly by the low growth rate of 1.4 per cent in food production in the MSA countries of Africa; in the MSA countries of Far East also the rate of growth was only 2.0 per cent. There are, however, indications that the rate of growth of food production in the MSA countries during 1974-76 was higher than that during the previous triennium 1971-73.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Economic Survey for 1977-78 clearly indicates that the per capita net availability per day for cereals has declined from 420.2 grams to 395.4 grams in 1977. For pulses, from 47.1 grams it came down to 40.1