

be punished very severely That is the law I am trying to consider

Irrigation facilities during Fourth Five Year Plan

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*962 Shri Ram Kishan Gupta
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad.

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether an outline of the irrigation facilities for the Fourth Five Year Plan has been finalised, and

(b) if so the broad details thereof?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Not yet Sir

(b) Does not arise

Shri Ram Kishan Gupta May I know what will be the total allocation and the time by which it will be completed?

Dr. K. L. Rao I submit that the Fourth Plan has not yet been finalised in respect of irrigation. Tentatively it is put up as Rs 825 crores and it will enable 13 million acres to be brought under irrigation

Shri Ram Kishan Gupta May I know whether the Beas Project will be completed during the Fourth Five-Year Plan?

Dr. K. L. Rao. The Beas Project I am afraid, will take upto 1972—one or two years later than the Fourth Plan

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश के कुछ ऐसे हिस्से हैं जहाँ अक्सर सूखा पड़ जाता है और पानी की कमी रहती है, क्या चौबीस वर्षीय योजना में ऐसे क्षेत्रों को कोई विशेष सुविधा देने का प्रयत्न किया जायगा जिसमें वहाँ सरकार की स्थिति न घटने पावे ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true that some drought-affected areas, specially those which have been affected by the last

two bad seasons, i.e., South Bihar and Eastern U P, must receive more attention that what they have received in the past I hope, this will be taken up and finalised in the Fourth Plan

Shri Mohamed Imam. So far as irrigation facilities are concerned, the State of Mysore has only about 7 per cent as compared to 24 per cent to 30 per cent in the neighbouring States This is not because there are no irrigation facilities, but there are a number of rivers which have not been harnessed May I know whether they will take into consideration the needs of the State of Mysore and resolve the disputes existing between Mysore and Madras, and Mysore and Andhra Pradesh, and till these disputes are resolved, will not take further steps or final conclusions?

Dr. K. L. Rao A very large number of projects have been sanctioned for Mysore It is true that the percentage of irrigation is rather low in the case of Mysore and Maharashtra It is, expected that, with the completion of the projects that have been sanctioned, the percentage of irrigation will increase I must also say that the disputes between Mysore and the neighbouring States have not affected the progress of works

Shri Mohamed Imam: I want to ask one more question

Mr. Speaker: No, no Mr Supakar

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: The Draft Fourth Plan provided for an outlay of Rs 965 crores Now the hon Minister has said that it will be Rs 825 crores I find from the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power that for this year and the last year, which are the first two years of the Plan, a total Plan outlay of only Rs 58,65,00,000 has been provided and that comes to less than one-tenth of the entire outlay May I know whether in the next three years the balance of about Rs. 750 crores will be spent?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The amount of Rs 825 crores specified is for irrigation projects. The amount spent is not Rs 58 crores, during 1966-67, we spent Rs 114 crores, and during this year we hope to spend about Rs 135 crores.

Shri N. Shivappa: With regard to these projects, the project papers are sometimes referred by the Central Government to some other State Governments. The result is that during these two decades, certain irrigation projects, particularly major projects pertaining to certain States have been delayed. With regard to the Hemavati project, however, no such references have been made, but it has been given technical sanction and clearance. May I know why this partiality is being shown in respect of certain projects? Is it not a fact that this is causing a great delay in the taking up of project work on several projects?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I do not know of any particular case, if the hon. Member has any specific case in mind and he writes to me, I shall look into that.

Shri P. Venkatasubbiah: In the Fourth Plan so far as irrigation projects are concerned, may I know whether Government are going to give due consideration to such of the major irrigation projects as could not be completed in time and whether they will be given sufficient financial assistance to expedite the execution of the works so that the amount that has been locked up may not remain unutilised?

Dr. K. L. Rao: That is the main object of the Fourth Plan irrigation schemes, namely to complete as many as possible of the major and medium irrigation schemes undertaken already and which can be completed in the Fourth Plan.

Shri Swell: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that there are areas in the country like Assam which have mighty rivers running across them and which can double or treble the food production if irriga-

tion facilities are given to them particularly during the dry months, by using the waters of their rivers? May I know whether any proposal has been made by the State Government of Assam and whether Government of India are actively considering the giving of irrigation facilities to Assam during the dry months so as to increase the food production in that State?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Assam is one of those parts of the country where there is plenty of rain-fall, it has more than 75 inches rain-fall. As the hon. Member has observed, after the monsoon months for the second crop there will be no water, that is quite true. One irrigation project has been sanctioned and that is nearly complete namely the Jamuna project scheme in Assam. We have not received any other projects from Assam, and if the Assam Government sends any project it will receive attention.

श्री अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि राम-गंगा डैम पिछले 15 वर्षों में बन रहा है और चौथे प्लान में भी उम्मीद नहीं है कि बन कर तैयार हो जायगा। इस प्रोजेक्ट में झागरा और मधुरा जिलों में सिंचाई की व्यवस्था होनी है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह कब तक बन कर तैयार हो जायगा तथा वहाँ पर सिंचाई की व्यवस्था के लिये और क्या इन्तजाम किया जा रहा है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true that the Ramganga project will do immense benefit to Agra from which the hon. Member comes. Due to some difficulties, it has not been possible to make much progress, but it is expected that in the Fourth Plan this will be substantially completed and the benefits will begin to flow from the beginning of the next Plan.

Shri P. Gopalan: According to the official figures, out of a total irrigation potential of 18 million acres in 1965-66 only 13.6 million acres have been utilised. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government have gone into the reasons

for the non-utilisation of the full capacity. Furthermore, I would like to know whether Government are aware of the substantial time-lag between the construction of the project and the construction of the feeder canal, and if so, whether Government have any proposal to put a stop to this and to utilise the full capacity

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true there is a certain amount of lag between potential and utilisation. There are various reasons for it. But I must also submit that the utilisation in the country is very good, about 86 per cent, though I concede, as the hon. Member has quoted, that against a potential 17 million acres, we have utilised so far only 13 million acres. It is our endeavour to see that all the potential is utilised as early as possible.

As for the second part, it is perfectly true that the construction of the canals must be undertaken at the same time as the construction of the dams and other diversion works. That is the ideal way of doing things; it is also the most economical way. Unfortunately, due to our financial difficulties, sometimes we are not able to achieve this.

Shri G. S. Reddi: The Gandak, Kosi and Nagarjunasagar projects are nearing completion. Is there any special provision made to see that these projects nearing completion are financially assisted this year?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I submitted that the object of the Fourth Plan is to complete the projects in an advanced stage of construction. I cannot say as to how much funds more than what has been provided will be given this year.

Shri Banga: Is any effort being made to develop either wholly or partly during the Fourth Plan the multi-purpose project of Vamsadhara for which the foundation stone was laid twice but has not been developed yet?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true that Vamsadhara is one of the projects which have been investigated for 30-40 years. It is a very good project and should have been taken up. But on account of financial stringency, the Andhra Pradesh Government have not been able to do it. I hope during the Fourth Plan period at least a beginning will be made and some part of it done.

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद : दामपन्न महोदय, बाबरा-गंगा प्रोजेक्ट की दोहरी कैनल से राजमगढ़ और बलिया के कुछ हिस्से की सिंचाई होती है, लेकिन फिर भी राजमगढ़ का बाघा हिस्सा और बलिया का कुछ हिस्सा छूट जाता है। इस छूटे हुए हिस्से को सींचने के लिये क्या कोई दोहरी-कैनल से मिलाने की योजना बोधी-योजना में है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I take it that the hon. Member is asking whether the Ganga-Ghaghra project is being used for irrigating areas of Azamgarh ..

Shri Sheo Narain: May I explain?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I submit that for this year between these two rivers, Ganga and Ghaghra, we are now engaged in taking up a very interesting and very useful project called Sarju project; when constructed, it will give ample water there

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: May I request all to sit down? This afternoon we are taking up the Demands of the Irrigation and Power Ministry. If every State were to ask 'what happened to my project?', can that be answered during question hour? Therefore, these things may be brought out during the discussion later in the day

Former Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes

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*963. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to—