

[*English*]

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : She was not able to hear properly Shri Ayyapu Reddy's question. About Srisailam specifically I am making a statement, I am telling you that there is a sub-centre which is planned—whether it is going to be set up in this year or in the next year, I could not say. I can inform you that because you are the only person interested and I am the second person interested in Srisailam.

[*Translation*]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think my friend was not implying by his suggestion to set up a separate cultural centre, that such a centre should be kept separated. My plea is that when the people from the hill areas come to the centre established in Patiala, they feel ill at ease, because they are not too advanced in culture or in education. When these people come here, they are dazzled by the markets and other advancements. Therefore, I would request that the people living in the entire Himalayan region form almost one ethnic group as they share the same culture and can communicate in almost the same language from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. Hence, in order to preserve their culture, as our hon. colleague has suggested, will a centre be set up there? I am not talking in terms of either Ladakh or Arunachal Pradesh specifically, but that a centre could be established in Dehradun, Nainital or in any such other place. Has the Government any such proposal under consideration?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have already said that so far as the cultural identity is concerned, these centres will make efforts to maintain it. If anything goes out of hand, then their workload would increase and as I had just said about Srisailam, we shall establish sub-centres over there. Now, whether the plains or the mountains are more advanced in culture, is a debatable point. I am not prepared to agree that the people belonging to the plains are culturally more advanced; they might be so in other things, but not in culture.

MR. SPEAKER : The people of hill regions are, of course, living at high altitude.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : The plains are a part of the Himalayan region.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : That is why I am saying that we shall make efforts to set up sub-centres there.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister, for the completion of 'Apna Utsav' in the true sense of the term in the House today. I thank you for it.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : This goes on everyday.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a continuous process.

[*English*]

Satellite Survey of Himalayan Region to Forecast Floods

*350. **SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entire glaciated Himalayan region is proposed to be covered by remote sensing and telemetry through satellite to precisely forecast floods in its rivers and help in judicious management of its water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure involved and to what extent this will help to forecast floods?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :

(a) The entire glaciated Himalayan region is not proposed to be covered by Remote Sensing and telemetry through Satellite.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Sir, the theme of the question is whether it is a fact that a number of plans have been formulated by the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment institute which is currently engaged in the application of remote sensing techniques for snow mapping and snow-melt run-off studies?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, that is what I have replied.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Neither he could hear your question, nor I could follow. Please repeat your question once again.

[*English*]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Sir, under a caption 'Plan to forecast floods' in Indian Express dated 23rd September it has been mentioned :

"The entire glaciated Himalayan region will shortly be covered by remote sensing and telemetry, through satellite to precisely forecast floods in its rivers and help a judicious management of its water resources. The SASE institute Director Brig. Mohan Rao said this will provide vital data of the locked up water resources in the glaciers and snow in the Himalayan region".

I would like to know whether this is true or not.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have said more than once that the entire glaciated Himalayan region is not proposed to be covered by remote sensing agencies.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : But the Director of this SASE institute has categorically stated that they will be implementing this scheme.

I would also like to know whether this institute is conducting studies in collaboration with the Bhakra-Beas management and they have prepared a number of plans which are helping to forecast floods ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The remote sensing agency is located at Hyderabad and it is supplying us the maps but those maps only show inundated areas of the floods. Now the hon. Member wants to know whether there is any proposal to cover the entire glaciated Himalayan region. Sir, at the moment we are in search of various modern methods of not only controlling floods but also managing the floods. Floods cannot be controlled

hundred per cent. We are tackling the problem of floods in this country by two methods, one is the structural methods. We are spending money for building embankments and damming of rivers in order to protect the plains from the floods. The non-structural method is to forecast the floods...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, I could understand neither the question nor the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Like question, like answer. One gets what one deserves.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The question is whether we are going to take up this flood forecasting by remote sensing agency of the entire glaciated area of the Himalayas. I said, we do not have any such proposal...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Further, has it been reported that this Institute is facing problems which are more challenging than those of Antarctica and the same are not being looked into by the Government... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I could not hear... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU : What are the duties of SASE Institute ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This Institute is not under this Ministry and I would not be able to tell that. However, I would give the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : In almost all the major mountain chains of the world this kind of remote sensing is done, to ascertain whether the glaciers are receding or advancing and on that they ascertain the change in climate. Without this kind of assessment, how do you coordinate? Besides, we have a programme of Monex. How do you supply information to the Monex? Without this kind of information of remote sensing and telemetry of all our

glaciers in the Himalayas, how do you coordinate with Nepal ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is true that many advanced countries in the world have the system of remote sensing, drawing maps and forecasting floods. Unfortunately, it has not been possible for us to do so far. We had a pilot project for Delhi on the Yamuna basin and that was the first stage of this. This was on a minor scale. Under the second phase of his pilot project, data collection, storage and transmission sub-systems will be set up to communicate the data through INSAT-1B to the control room at Delhi. The estimate for phase two of this scheme is in advanced stage of sanction.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : The State-wise surveys of 1972-75 and 1980-85 show that while the forest areas in other States have decreased, in Sikkim these have considerably increased. In spite of that, the glaciers in the foothills of the Himalayas have been receding, and the people of Sikkim are worried as to why it is so. Has any study been made by the Government ? If not, is there any proposal to do so in the future.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I share the concern of the hon. member. It is a suggestion and I accept it.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH : The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the particular Centre in Hyderabad is not under his Ministry. If the Minister has answered the question in this way, then there must have been some lapse on the part of your Secretariat.

Secondly, the Minister has categorically stated that no remote sensing has been done in the Himalayas. I would like the Minister to get some background material on that, because I am aware that certain areas have been looked into. As far as remote sensing goes, the satellites that are up in the space and also the shuttle or the space-ship in which Shri Rakesh Sharma went, have certain instruments and maps by which these forecasts are being made by the Centre at Hyderabad. It is wrong on the part of the Minister to say that these records cannot

give information about floods. Even the Prime Minister has stated that it is very important to forecast floods if we are to curb our wastelands and also improve our afforestation. Will the Minister look into it, or will you Sir, allow us or give permission to have a half-an-hour discussion on this ?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need. You have almost taken half-an-hour. The Minister will be replying.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. member himself was a Minister in charge of it for some time. Perhaps the Remote Sensing Agency which is working in Hyderabad is not under this Ministry, but I agree with him that this Remote Sensing Agency is doing good work. The question is with reference to controlling and forecasting floods and with reference to that, I have given the answer.

Survey of Minor Irrigation Sources

*351. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning a country-wide census of the minor irrigation sources to assess the potential and the actual utilisation of these sources;

(b) whether there is a big gap between the potential and utilisation of the minor irrigation sources in the country; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps are being taken to fully utilise these sources in the shortest possible time frame ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated gap between the potential and utilisation in the minor irrigation sector at the end of 6th Plan is only about 6%.

(c) State Governments are being urged to ensure adequate power and distribution systems and necessary funds for maintenance of minor irrigation schemes.