

been guarded against and, if so, what steps have been taken in that regard, with details.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I think the Hon. Member will know from the reply itself that as far as possible, we have kept to the time schedule. But in between there was a court case put by the Panda there and for two years there was some sort of a halt. Once that was cleared, the work is completely going on. I may, through you, point out that this is a very sensitive matter. It is a matter of great beauty and art. (*Interruptions*) We cannot rush through and spoil the sculpture and the faces which are coming out now. But I may assure him that things are going as fast as possible under the direct supervision of the Technical Committee, apart from the Expert Committee which has been set up. All these things are there. I think, the temple, the last temple of Narasimha, will also be completed within this year.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, my real supplementary about pollution and environmental factor has not been answered. I would like to know whether this has been care of or not.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I suppose the Experts Committee and the Technical Committee which have been set-up and are supervising these things must have taken care of this aspect.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : I would like to know what is the demarcating line between the monuments which come under the preservation of Government of India and the Archaeological Department of the State Government? As a matter of fact, I have written a number of letters about Bhavankuneswar temple of Arukhuda which is part of Jagannath culture and other tanks in Puri but nobody takes care of it. Government of India pushes me to the State Government and the State Government says, it is for the Government of India. I am in a helpless position. Please make it clear that not only the Jagannath temple but the whole complex will be taken care of.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, his query is very pertinent and clear and I will myself try to give a pertinent reply. There are several monuments outside Jagannath

temple complex which mainly include six holy shrines, the five sacred tanks which he referred to and the four ashrams. These are not Centrally protected but they have a great historic value. Therefore, the Archaeological Survey of India has been directed to examine these monuments also. Further a phased programme has been mapped out and according to that there will be de-plastering which has been completed upto a certain level. Apart from the de-plastering and preservation they shall also try and look after the encroachments in and around the protected monuments and the gardens.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, I have been to this temple and I have seen that the condition of maintenance is very poor. Sir, apart from the condition of maintenance of the temple, it is also a fact that antiques from this temple as well as other temples are being stolen and smuggled out of the country. I would like to know what is the Government doing to see that these precious antiques are not smuggled out of the country.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, I seek your indulgence to see how far this question is related to the present one. It is a different question but we will look into that also. About the earlier supplementary, I would like to say that chemical treatment and preservation is a continuous process and it is being ensured against also.

[Translation]

Second Phase of Indira Gandhi Canal

*722. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government has sought the advice of the Central Water Commission and Planning Commission in regard to certain decisions for drastic changes made in the second phase of Indira Gandhi Canal after 1983 ; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the progress made in the matter ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The Government of Rajasthan have indicated that they are further revising

the scope of Stage-II of the Indira Gandhi Canal Project, envisaging pasture development in tail areas of the Canal and additional irrigation area under the lift schemes. The matter is under discussion with the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the suggestions given by the Rajasthan Government in respect of revision of the scope of Stage II of the Indira Gandhi Canal Project and whether the Central Water Commission has examined these suggestions and if so, what is their report ?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This is a very gigantic project. The State Government has revised it three times. Again it has sought modifications and the modifications are under consideration. The State Government have suggested certain modifications.

It is given in detail here. I can quote this :

“The modifications proposed are as indicated below :

- (1) Areas up to RD 961 of the main canal will receive irrigation by gravity. There is no change in the scope of the project up to RD 961 from that finalised in 1985.”

This is what the hon. Member perhaps seems to be concerned.

- (2) Below RD 961 of the main canal, the following works have been proposed :

- (i) Out of a total OCA of 5.40 lakh hectares under gravity flow irrigation, 3.66 lakh hectares of land is proposed to be developed as a pasture land at an intensity of 100% for dairy development and animal husbandry. In the remaining 1.74 lakh hectares conventional irrigation of 80% intensity has been proposed by bringing under irrigation 3 Km.

wide strip along the Sagarmal-gopa, Gadra Road extension and other direct distributaries below RD 961.”

Now, Sir, about the Second modification, the State Government has suggested certain things. There is an interesting story. The State Government proposed Lift Irrigation Schemes.

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : That is what the hon. Member is interested to know. In February 1977, in the second stage of the project five lift schemes were suggested by the State Government and I am surprised in May 1978, these proposed lift schemes were dropped by the State Government. Now, the State Government has again come up before the Central Government suggesting these modifications.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : It was the Janata Government at that time.

MR. SPEAKER : Government is a Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, you allow me to reply to the question.

AN HON. MEMBER : With retrospective effect.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : This is a very important question. That is why I am very much interested in it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Now, I come to the second modification which has been proposed by the State Government. I quote :—

- (ii) Six lift schemes have been proposed out of which 5 are the modified proposals of earlier finalised lift canals and the sixth one is a new addition. Under these lift schemes, a 3-kilometre wide strip of land on either bank is proposed to be brought under irrigation. Also, one kilometre wide shelter belt plantation on either side of three kilometre strip has been proposed. These areas are proposed to be irrigated at 80% intensity.

- (iii) Quantity of water proposed to be provided for drinking and other uses has been kept as 0.65 MAF for the time being. The ultimate requirements have been indicated to be 1800 cusecs, that is, 1 MAF and the balance quantity is proposed to be met with my better water management practices”.

So, Sir, these are the modifications suggested by the State Government. Of course, there is a purpose for suggesting these things. They are justified in suggesting these modifications for the object of making better use of the water. The observations made by the Central Water Power Commission are for the entire country. There was a discussion. I know, Sir, you are interested in Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER : I am interested in whole of the country.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, whether the person in charge was a practical farmer or not.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I am a farmer myself.

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking whether the person in charge who changed and re-changed these things had practical knowledge of agriculture, irrigation or not.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The persons involved in the scrutiny of these modifications are experts, water scientists, topmost engineers, and experts in water management. They are put incharge of this.

MR. SPEAKER : You are right ; but still the head counts.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Central Water Commission is on the job. What I wanted to say was that decision in this regard must be taken as early as possible because the delay in taking a decision results in slowing down of pro-

gress of work on Stage II of the Indira Gandhi Canal Project. This being is a very important project, I would like to know the time by which the Central Water Commission, the Planning Commission and your own Department would be taking a decision and the time by which the Government of Rajasthan would hasten the pace of work following that decision ? Also, what special assistance the Central Government are going to give in this regard ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : So far as the question of taking a decision is concerned, what decision can be taken if the State Government fails to give proper reply to the points raised or comments sought. If they are able to give clarifications early, a decision on the scheme can be taken in the meeting which is going to be held in a day or two.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that Stage II of the Indira Gandhi Canal Project extends upto Gadra Road from Mohangarh and the distance of Pakistan border from the Main Canal near Mohangarh is 40 to 45 kilometres whereas this distance at Gadra Road is only 5 to 6 kilometres. You have stated that some pasture—land development in tail-end areas will be allowed, but will it not be necessary from the strategic point of view not to allow pasture-land development in that Western part of Rajasthan Canal bordering Pakistan and instead allow cultivation of land so as to ensure population in that area which in turn would ensure security of the border area ? Will the hon. Minister consider this point ?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : May I say that it is a suggestion for action.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the areas of Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Churu through which this canal passes very close to Pakistan border are water scarce areas for centuries. I would like to know whether a part of this precious water would also be supplied to the people of these areas ? If so, by when ?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The history of this project since 1955 till now goes to show that the entire water that is meant for this area is for those areas where water is so scarce.

MR. SPEAKER : And the area mentioned by the hon. Member is also very scarce in water. I can vouchsafe for that.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can say that this is meant for the Rajasthan people.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that we had requested a number of times to declare it a national project and to complete it as soon as possible, but the Central Government have paid no heed to our request so far. We have kept you posted about the changes made and bunglings committed since then with the requests to set it right. The engineers have indulged in bungling to the tune of Rs. 200 crores. Today, again I would like to avail of this opportunity to request you that as long as the Central Government do not take this project in their hands, it is not going to be completed early and may take years to be completed. At the same time, as stated by the hon. Member from Jhunjhunu, besides Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Pala and other neighbouring areas are also facing acute scarcity of drinking water. With regard to the third suggestion received from the Rajasthan Government. I would like to know what decision has been taken in that regard and how much time Government would take to complete this project on priority basis.

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, May I say a word? Let there not be an impression within this House or outside the House that there has been a delay in implementation of the project. Absolutely, there is no delay.

(Interruptions)

Please listen to me. Stage-I of the project is almost complete. 204 KM length of feeder canal and 189 long main canal were completed by June 1964 and June 1975

respectively. Out of a total length of 2942 KM of distributory system, 2907 KM of length has been completed by December 1985. I do not see if there is any delay in this. Work on construction of Stage II of the project is in full swing and it is hoped to be completed very soon. If those modifications were not suggested, perhaps the delay would have been cut short.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes Dr. Bhoi. But if you put irrelevant question, I will not allow it.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, if I am irrelevant, you can send me out of this House.

Sir, recently you must have been on the TV the gigantic construction work of the Indira Gandhi Canal. In this connection, I would like to know whether the Planning Commission and the CWC people are getting the expert advice from geologists. Are you adopting the Vishweswarayya theory of construction regarding the irrigation projects and are you involving the expert geologists in the country to delineate the different formations so that they can properly advise as to what type of materials like gravel, stones, etc. can be used in the construction to expedite it? In Karnataka, Mohammad Ismael and Vishweswarayya had made a master plan of the whole State about the irrigation projects taking the advice of the senior geologists. You can also involve NSRA in this process. I would like to know whether you would request the Planning Commission and the CWC to involve all the expert individuals and organisations in future. The hon. Minister may even reply it later.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, it has no relation to the main question.

Norms for issue of Railway Free Passes to Individuals and Institutions.

*723. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether is a fact that with a view to preventing indiscriminate issue of railway free passes, all railway passes to individuals and institutions were cancelled ;

(b) if so, whether this step has resulted