

[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

in genuine social institutions engaged in useful social activities and relief work having also been robbed of the facility of railway passes ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reframe well defined norms for the issue of railway passes and then re-issue the passes on the basis of the revised norms ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) It is presumed that the question refers to the issue of Complimentary Card Passes. With a view to effecting strict economy in expenditure all the Complimentary Card Passes were cancelled in 1981.

(b) No, Sir, Keeping in view the needs of the organisations and the financial constraints of the Railways, a limited number of such passes, which are Complimentary, are issued in deserving cases.

(c) Guidelines for issue of passes have been in existence for more than a decade. Complimentary Card Passes are issued only with the approval of the Minister for Transport, based on justification and merits of each case. Reframing of guidelines is not considered necessary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, there are a lot of inaccuracies in the answers that are given.

(Interruptions)

Prof. Ranga, I think agrees with me.

MR. SPEAKER : Then, it is quite a formidable task for me to resist.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Firstly, you carefully look at the wording of the first question, i.e. (a) whether these passes were cancelled with a view to preventing indiscriminate issue of railway free passes. Now, you have altogether scurred over that prospect and you have not given a reply whether all the passes in 1981 were cancelled to prevent the earlier indiscriminate issue of railway passes. He has said, just to ensure economy that has been done. So, firstly is it a not a fact that in 1981...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Does it not come to the same thing ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is the result. I have got my reply also here. Therefore my specific question is, when the new Government came in 1980, is it not a fact that the successive Railway Ministers indiscriminately increased the number of Railway passes ? It attracted severe criticism from various newspapers and the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi advised the Railway Minister to take cognizance of this complaint and as a result of that, to stop this indiscriminate issue of railway passed. That is the reason why the passes were completely cancelled in 1981. I want a specific reply to this question before I come to the second one.

SHRI BANSI LAL : There was a criticism on issue of such passes in both the Houses of Parliament and outside also and that is why the passes were cancelled and it was for the economy as well.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he agrees. Sir I am glad ; he is a very honest person.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : But the question is whether he is an honest Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I hope, with the same clarity and honesty he will also give the reply to the second question. I am expecting that, In the second part, there are two inaccuracies and I hope they will be corrected and a correct answer will be given.

Now in part 'c'—it is stated that guidelines for the issue of passes have been in existence for more than a decade. The same is continuing, and the passes to individuals and institutions will be issued on the basis of that. He has said, "more than a decade". Now, I have got here with me the Lok Sabha proceedings of 1978. There was a Started Question No. 471 on 28 March, 1978. Sir fortunately or unfortunately, I had replied that. Sir, I will only read out that because he has to reply.

He has said for more than a decade the same are continuing. I replied it on 28.3.1978.

[Translation]

It reads—"but we had fixed new norms with regard to issue of passes to the people

after the Janata Government had come to power. These have been our three norms :

[English]

- (1) Institutions and organisations devoted to social, cultural, scientific, literary, sports and educational activities and whose work is of all-India character ;
- (2) Organisations developed to the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward and neglected sections, women, blind and handicapped persons ;
- (3) Eminent persons engaged in the work of national importance, for which they are required to undertake frequent journeys."

Sir, this was announced in this very House on 28.3.78. Not more than a decade has passed. And therefore, I would like to know whether these norms are being followed, and if they are followed now my specific query is this. He has said that there is no complaint. The genuine social organisations are refused passes. Sir, I will quote Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. There are certain social institutions in different parts of the country. There is a museum—Raja Kelkar Museum—known all over the country where number of things in different parts are collected and kept and Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi have given a certificate. The matter came to her and she also directed them. Then, he said that Yes, it was unjust not to give them the passes. Recently passes have been given.

There is another case of the Antar Bhartiya Organization working for National Integration, on behalf of whom Baba Amte has been undertaking a tour. Regarding that Antar Bhartiya Organization, the position is that, whether it was Congress Government or Janta Government, in the past they were always having a pass, but due to his general guillotine, just as our Demands, these passes have also been guillotined. Therefore, will he really go through all the lists on the basis of these three norms which I have read out, and try to review the list ? I do not want any injustice, or any undeserving case to be considered. But on the basis of this norm,

whatever cases fit in, will those social institutions be granted passes ? That is all.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The guidelines which Prof. Dandavate has read out, and which he has given in his reply in 1978 were already in existence ; and he has mentioned one particular organization, viz Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Pune. Prof. Dandavate himself had sponsored this case, and the pass was granted to this organization.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Like that there are various organizations. I am not pleading only for the cases which I had recommended

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Saheb, this does happen in general guillotine ; sometimes somebody is left out and sometimes somebody is included. Here also, sometimes Agriculture is left out and sometimes Commerce.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Agriculture cannot be left out.

[English]

With you in the Chair, can any Minister dare plead for guillotining Agriculture ?

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now we heard about guillotine of passes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken for issuing passes ; whether it is a fact that a decision to issue passes to freedom fighters was taken in the Freedom Fighters Conference held in Allahabad to which, perhaps, the Prime Minister had also given his approval ; if so, the steps taken in this regard so far ? Secondly, will Government re-consider issuing of passes to such organisations which actually have social responsibility and are in fact engaged in social work ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : Sir, so far as issuing of passes is concerned, we do issue passes from time to time to those who actually do good work, but the passes are issued on the basis of the importance of the individual. Sharmaji has referred to the case of freedom fighters. The Prime Minister

had announced it in Allahabad and this scheme has come into effect from 1st December. Every Freedom Fighters who draws pension from the Central Government will be issued cheque pass for six months and his spouse or attendant is also allowed in the same class.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : I want to know whether the passes have actually been issued or it is still a scheme ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : Orders have been issued to passes. As and when the Freedom Fighters start approaching the railway authorities, they would start getting passes.

[English]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It should be issued automatically. Where is the question of paying 'as and when' ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order what is this ? This is not a free for all. Now Prof. Ranga.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It is not a fact that the railway passes for the President and the Secretary of the All India Freedom Fighters Organization were cancelled by my hon. friend, Mr. Dandavate, inspite of the representation I myself also had made to him ? That cancellation still continues even today, under the present Railway Minister, inspite of repeated requests on our behalf.

It is also not a fact that even over the decisions, suggestions or concessions offered by the Prime Minister, we have made a further representation for a better utilization of that concession ? The hon. Minister has been good enough to say that he would reconsider his earlier decision.

SHRI BANSI LAL : I do not know whether Prof Dandavate had cancelled the passes or not. But Mr. Sheel Bhadra Yajee is President of the Freedom Fighters Association, and we have given him a Card Pass. He holds it.

MR. SPEAKER : Now next question : Mr. Das Muni.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What about the General Secretary ? The General Secretary has got to go round the whole of India. (Interruptions).

Indoor patients treated at AIIMS

*729. **SYED SHAHABUDDIN :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of indoor patients treated at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi during 1985 ;

(b) break up of the total number State/ Union Territory-wise ;

(c) the break-up income-groupwise ; and

(d) the number of VIPs treated during 1985 and the number of beds/rooms reserved for them, if any ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) 46,068.

(b) Delhi	30,962
Haryana	4,095
U.P.	6,854
Punjab	378
Rajasthan	651
Other States	2,844
Foreign Nationals	284

(c) The Institute does not maintain income-wise data of patients.

(d) No specific data is maintained as to the number of VIPs treated in AIIMS. No beds or rooms have been specifically reserved for VIPs.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, as we all know, is an institution of national importance which should theoretically have equal access for all citizens of the country who make the particular grade or fulfil the criterion for admission. We were advised that the criterion for admission is not rank or origin or domicile. But I want to know whether a particular sickness that is sought to be treated cannot be treated even by a specialist even at a State Capital and then these patients have to be referred to this institution of national importance. We however find that three States, Delhi, Haryana and U.P., I dare say not the whole of Haryana, not the whole of U.P. but only a few districts of Haryana and a few districts of U.P. close to Delhi, account roughly for 95