

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Thursday, November, 6, 1986/Kartika  
15, 1908 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Inchampalli project

\*41. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to take initiative for convening a conference of all concerned Chief Ministers for reaching an agreement on Inchampalli Project; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The Andhra Pradesh Government requested that the Centre may consider convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the concerned States for approval of the Constitution of a Joint Control Board for the project.

(b) The matter was taken up with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The Maharashtra Government wrote to Andhra Pradesh suggesting constitution of a Task Force of the Chief Engineers of the three

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States for preparing a detailed project report including its ecological profile and also suggested an inter-State meeting at ministerial level for preliminary discussions. The matter is resting with the Andhra Pradesh Government.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, True to the typical style of our Central Government, the ball has been thrown back in the court of the Andhra Pradesh Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Is the ball meant to be kicked ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : As you are fully aware, untold and unprecedented devastation was caused by the floods in Godavari river, and the damage has been assessed, this year alone, at Rs. 1700 crores. This damage and this spate could have been averted if the Inchampalli project and the Polavaram barrage had been constructed.

For the information of the House I may state that an award was given by the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal, following which an accord was reached among the then Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh way back in 1978 for building this Multi-purpose inter-State project. Since 1978, it has been lost in the labyrinth of correspondence. Therefore, as a part of my question, I enquire from the Government of India as to whether it would take any initiative for convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers. According to the Minister, the matter has once again been left to the Chief Ministers. And then again, the matter will continue as part of the unending correspondence.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The Inchampalli project was agreed to by the three State Governments, and forms a part of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award. The award was given on the basis

of an agreement between the three States. Since then, Central Government has been approached for constituting a Control Board by the three States; and the Central Government has advised the three States to sit together and consider various propositions and difficulties that arise, because having a Control Board without a project report or even basic agreement on the various things involved, would not serve much purpose; and, therefore, whenever this thing has come, we have asked the State Governments to get together; and the suggestion of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra is a very proper one, viz. that a task force at the Chief Engineers' level should be established. They can work out the various technicalities, after which the meeting at the ministerial level could be held, so that things could be sorted out. A meeting at the Chief Ministers' level is very easy to call, but unless some preparatory steps are taken, I do not think many concrete results are going to come out of that.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** As I mentioned earlier, eight years have elapsed since the accord. An agreement in regard to details was also entered into way back in 1978. 78 per cent of the cost of the project was to be borne by the Andhra Pradesh Government; Andhra Pradesh Government took the lead in the matter—both the present government and the earlier government which belonged to your own party. But there has not been adequate response coming to us from the Governments of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. I, therefore, urge that the Central Government should take the initiative in the matter. Formation of the Control Board is a *sine quanon* even for conducting a survey. Therefore, will the Government of India take the initiative to see that the Control Board is formed so, that a survey at least can be conducted?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** I quote from the letter which the Chief Minister of Maharashtra wrote on 2nd May 1985 to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. T. Rama Rao, in which we are in touch with the State Government. Merely calling a meeting would not serve any purpose. Basically, it is an inter-State project. Unless basic things are not agreed at the technical level and the State Ministers' level,

calling a meeting is very easy. We want concrete steps to come out of that meeting.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** I seek your protection.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is your point of view, not the point of view of the Minister.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** The agreement was entered into way back in 1978.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I cannot do more than that.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** The same is the fate of Polavaram barrage. (*Interruptions*).

**MR. SPEAKER :** The same is the answer.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Why should the Minister hesitate to offer to take an initiative in the matter? I am afraid, he is dragging his feet deliberately.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Not at all. The Government of India is very keen that the three State Governments should at least have some semblance of agreement on the project and its concept.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Even to have a semblance, you need a Control Board.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** One great difficulty that is coming in the way is... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is not going to be a debate like this. I cannot help it. ... (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** If the Minister refuses to divulge anything, what to do? (*Interruptions*).

**MR. SPEAKER :** I can't do anything.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Are you satisfied with it ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** You could draw the attention of the Minister. What you want is that a conference to be held at the initiative of the Central Government. That you have brought it out. You can't pin him down. Please sit down. It is all right. *(Interruptions).*

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Since he does not belong to Karnataka, he could show less of antagonism to us.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** The Chief Minister of Maharashtra wrote as back as 2nd May 1965. No reply has been received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to this letter. Why can't he speak to the Chief Minister? That is the problem.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** That is not correct.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You can find it out.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** I give credit to the Andhra Pradesh Government led by Congress I as well. The Andhra Pradesh Government, whichever party was heading has always taken an initiative in the matter. *(Interruptions).*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Order, order !

*[Translation]*

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a result of this tussle between the State Governments of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and the Central Government, "Janata" (the people) are suffering.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Is the Janata Party suffering or the "Janata" (the people) ?

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :** Sir, both the people as well as Janga Reddy are suffering. This Inchampalli Project is not for Andhra Pradesh alone it is a necessity for the entire country. The floods in Godavari

River have caused damage worth crores of rupees. With the commissioning of this project, the water will be stored at one place to facilitate its efficient use for irrigation. Besides, the three Chief Ministers have also agreed to form a joint pool, but still the tussle is going on. Will the Central Government arrange to set up a joint board after taking the three Chief Ministers into confidence? We have already discussed this issue a number of times in this House as well as in the meeting of the Consultative Committee, but we feel that the Central Government are not taking any initiative in this matter. The State Governments of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh went that their land should not be submerged. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Central Government would take initiative to bring the three Chief Ministers together ?

*[English]*

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** This question may be answered by his neighbour, Mr. Vengal Rao, the Minister of Industry. *(Interruptions).*

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Shri Vengal Rao was the Chief Minister when the accord was signed.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** He is of course the former Chief Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is all right.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** And he is as keen as anybody else that it should come through. There is no problem in that. But there is one big problem which is coming up and that is the submersion of a large area, forest and virgin land. The submersion, totally in all the three States will be more than one lakh hectares. The number of villages displaced will be 2,148 and population to be re-settled 66,300 and all this is forest and virgin land and the people affected are mostly tribals. So, there is lot of resistance against this project and lot of people, very prominent people including Baba Amte have protested against this project that all the fertile, verdant land and the forest would be submerged and they said, "Please do not have this project; have another alternative

project so that the benefits can be had in another way". That is why the Government of India wanted it to be sorted out at the technical level, by the Chief Engineers and others. But I cannot understand why the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh cannot reply to the letter of May 1985, and write back.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : You do not know that the people of that area are suffering. Due to the flood waters, large areas of Andhra Pradesh are submerged.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He has not been properly informed.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Mr. Speaker, this is a question of all India importance. The Prime Minister had to visit there twice after the terrible damage that has been caused by the recent floods and the Central Government has to spare Rs. 30 crores and again Rs. 50 crores as interim assistance there. Therefore, the Centre should take a very more live interest in the Inchampalli Project and see whether the damage to nearby areas may be minimised. But then there are two former Chief Ministers of Andhra sitting by the side of my Hon. friend. He should seek their assistance also and their advice. I would like the Government of India to look into this not as an irrigation problem, but as an all India development and protection problem, and themselves take the initiative. They should not depend upon the engineers.

One Irrigation Minister was rather bad in his expression. Therefore he caused lot of annoyance in the House. The present Minister is pleasant. But he must show more result than briefly explaining away what the engineers have already told him. It is not necessary that the engineers alone have to be consulted. The interest of the country as a whole has to be seen. So, I would like my Hon. friend to pay greater attentive to this matter and to take the invitation on the lines suggested by our friend. This is an all party issue; not necessarily a one party issue.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : This is not only one party issue. This is an all India problem.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The two former Chief Ministers sitting by my side are as keen as anybody else in the House about this project. But there should be some keenness or desire on the part of the present Chief Minister to take up this matter and reply to the letter.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : This is not the way to answer. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Both the former Chief Minister are there.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : This is a project which is going to benefit though as a result of this, about 60 villages in my constituency are going to be submerged.

MR. SPEAKER : Oh ! My God !

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : But still people in that area feel that this project should come and is it a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Government of India in the month of August — in the month of August 1986—that there is no response from Maharashtra, that there is no reply from Madhya Pradesh, that the Government of India should take the initiative and convene a meeting ? Is it a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also written that some inspired agitations are being launched in the area in Bastar regarding the imaginary damage to ecology and submergence of the tribal area ? And is it also a fact that the Government of India is dragging its feet in this direction simply because the Government of India does not want this project to come up ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is no question of the Government of India not wanting this project. The three State Governments agreed to have this project and it was incorporated in the award of the Godavari River Water Tribunal. So, the

Government of India is prepared and has always been prepared to use its good offices after the consultation with the State Governments have come to a certain stage. So, while there is no problem in calling a meeting at my level, it would serve good and practical purpose only if preliminary talks with Chief Ministers or Irrigation Ministers of respective States take place.

[Translation]

World Bank aided schemes for installing tube-wells

\*42. SHRI R. P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total State-wise allocations made during the last three years for installing tube-wells under the World Bank aided schemes; and

(b) the allocations made to Uttar Pradesh during the last 3 years and the number of tube-wells put into operation and the number of those still under construction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). A Statement is given below :—

Statement

(a) The allocations made by Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal where there are ongoing Public Tubewell projects with World Bank Assistance, as reported by the States, for installing tube-wells in the last three years are as follows :

(Rs. in Million)

	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Uttar Pradesh	225.00	295.00	415.00
West Bengal	...	...	64.20

(b) The amount of additional Central Assistance to Uttar Pradesh on account of the Tubewells Project for the last three years is as follows :

(Rs. in Million)

	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Phase I	20.93	...	...
Phase II	6.86	28.49	141.19

In the Phase I of the project which was completed in June 1983, 559 tubewells were put into operation. In Phase II, 773 tubewells have come into operation upto September, 1986, and 2177 tubewells are under various stages of construction.

[Translation]

SHRI R. P. SUMAN : In reply to part (a) of the question, the figures of the allocations made by Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for installing tubewells with World Bank Assistance have been given, but there is no mention of Madhya Pradesh therein. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the allocations made to Madhya Pradesh during these three years ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The question asked by the Hon. Member was as to how many States were provided assistance through World Bank for the installation of tubewells. Only Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have formulated schemes which have since been approved. Madhya Pradesh has neither submitted any schemes in this regard nor there is any scheme under the consideration of World Bank pertaining to that State. West Bengal had formulated a scheme which is now an ongoing project. Uttar Pradesh had formulated a scheme long back, Phase-I of which is already over and phase-II is currently in progress for which the World Bank has given a large amount of assistance to the State.

SHRI R. P. SUMAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, my second supplementary is like this. As you know, Uttar Pradesh is a very backward State, especially eastern U. P. is very backward so far as irrigation is concerned. Therefore, there is need to install more tubewells there as a special case. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Central Government would allocate additional funds