

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Monday, August 17, 1987/Sravana 26, 1909
(Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: How is it that Professor Saheb is all alone today? Where have you left your colleagues?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: His colleagues have deserted him.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes it happens that someone among the colleagues marches forward all alone.

Shri Mohanty.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Drinking Water Programme

*285. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of the drinking water programme is proceeding according to targets and schedule contemplated in the Seventh Plan;

(b) the percentage of drinking water tube-wells as are out of order or are not in use, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective initiatives taken by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At Central level we do not monitor State-wise functioning of the tube-wells. However, a study by UNICEF has shown that on an average 80% of the tubewells are functioning in India.

(c) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. State implements the programme both under ARWSP and MNP. However, it has been found that the handpumps and tubewells mostly fail due to lack of knowledge in drilling proper boreholes, maintenance of the submersible pumps and handpumps and due to depression of water table as a result of failure of monsoon. Central Government under Technology Mission has organised training programmes for Hydro-geologists, Geophysicists and drilling engineers. The Mission is also helping the State Governments in scientific source finding through the use of satellite imageries and surveys through Central Ground Water Board. The State Governments have been advised to involve the community in the maintenance of handpumps and tube-wells.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, the Urban Development Minister had a meeting of different States in February 1987 and they have made a consensus recommendation to the Government, namely so far as the drinking water problem is concerned, it should be handled

by one agency and not by two agencies. Because it is being handled by two agencies, there has been a lot of confusion. Then, they have almost unanimously recommended to the Government that a Scheme should be introduced like ARWSP Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme for urban areas.

Sir, you are aware how the drinking water is scarce in Delhi itself apart from other cities and so also about having a Corporation for financing the drinking water project. As a matter of fact, in the Seventh Plan, Rupees Fifty five crores had been allocated for this Corporation. But, there is no progress in that matter. Another thing is that there has been an imbalance in the use of ground water so far as the industry and irrigation are concerned vis-a-vis drinking water. These are the problems about which, there was a consensus recommendation to the Government. I know the Government have accepted all the recommendations. May I know what is the progress of it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Mr Speaker, Sir, so far as the holding of the conference of Urban Development Ministers is concerned, my department is not concerned with it. I do not have any information about it and, therefore, I cannot throw any light on it.

The second point, which the hon. Member has raised, is regarding formation of a corporation. In the Department of Rural Development, we are thinking regarding supply of drinking water in rural areas. We do not propose to form a corporation, but the question of forming a Drinking Water Board is under our consideration.

So far as the question of use of underground water by industry in an imbalanced way is concerned, we have asked the State Governments to enact a proper law so that underground water could be used by

industry in a proper way. At present, underground water is being used by industry in such a manner that the source of water dries up and this leads to shortage of water. It is our advice that State Governments should enact laws to regulate the use of water by industry.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: In reply to my question (b) 'the percentage of the drinking water tubewells as are out of order or are not in use, State-wise;' the State-wise figures have not been given. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the entire programme would be monitored by the Government of India or not? Or would it be like the case of an illegitimate baby who is thrown in the bath tub and nobody takes care of him? Does the Central Government monitor that the money is really spent and the tubewells are really functioning? That hon. Minister has said that 80 per cent of the tubewells are functioning. But that is a very generalised Statement. I want the figures for that and that too State-wise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information regarding monitoring done by my Department is not available with me at present and, therefore, I cannot tell the percentage of tube-wells which are out of order in the rural areas, but UNICEF has conducted a survey according to which 80 per cent tube-wells in the villages are in working condition. We used to depend on our monitoring system ...(*Interruptions*) ... So far as the monitoring by the Department is concerned, till now we used to ask for a monthly report from the States about the amount spent by them out of the funds allocated to them, but we never asked them about their utilisation and about the functioning of tube-wells. Thereafter, we started calling for periodical reports instead of monthly reports. When the periodical reports were not to the satisfaction of the Department, the Department evolved its own monitor-

ing system under which we take up 360 villages in five blocks in 36 districts in a month and examine the sources. Our Government has got very good agencies and evaluation work is done by them. These agencies furnish the report about the number of tube-wells which are functioning, the number of people who have been benefited, the number of S.C. and S.T. people among them, the number of problem villages which have been covered and whether there are more than one source. It is also ascertained whether tube-wells are functioning or not and whether boring of tube-wells has been done properly or not. It is also found out whether the source has dried up. Our monitoring work has not been completed yet. It was started in the month of December. We will be able to cover all the districts of the country in a year and only then we will be able to get a clear picture...(*Interruptions*)

The final report would be available in December as this work would take one year. We want that with the process which we have adopted, we should cover all the States.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You might have got the report about 360 villages.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: The agencies which are working on this project, they will submit to us cumulative reports.

MR. SPEAKER: You are replying to an unauthorised question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Technology Mission was constituted last year to solve the problem of drinking water in hilly areas and the drought-affected rural areas of the country and thereafter it started working in various parts of the country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the scientific suggestions given by the Technology Mission to meet the situation arising out of the

serious drought and the shortage of drinking water prevalent in our country and other problems being faced by the States?

Many States have been facing continuous drought for the last two years. Our India Mark-II handpumps can draw water from a depth of 140 to 150 feet. This year water will have to be drawn a depth of 200 to 250 feet as water level has gone down much low. Keeping in view this difficulty, what scientific suggestions have been given by the Technology Mission?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Sir, this Technology Mission has got its own methodology. There are different types of problems which the people in rural areas have to face. For instance, water has to be made potable. For this purpose, the Technology Mission has engaged scientific organisations and action is being taken through them. The task of the Technology Mission is to find out the scientific source to bring about improvement in the traditional methodology as also in the old methods of storing water and give suggestions to purify water if somewhere it is found filthy, saline or containing fluoride. Besides, the Technology Mission also suggests as to what changes should be made to make the drinking water system cost effective. This Mission also gives suggestions for making improvements in the maintenance methods.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: The water level has further gone down from 150 feet and now water has to be drawn out from a depth of 250 to 300 feet. May I know the action being taken by the Government in this regard and the view of the Technology Mission in regard thereto?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: We have issued guidelines to the State Governments that wherever the water level is so low that water cannot be drawn out by means of handpumps, then these handpumps should be removed and installed at such places where water is available at a suitable depth.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, actually by this time, all the problem villages had to be tackled, but it is a fact that several problem villages identified in Lists I and II, including some of the villages which are identified as chlorine-affected villages, are yet to be provided safe drinking water in our State and particularly in my constituency. Our Government has submitted proposals for sanction under ARWSP to the Government of India. I would like to know when is the Government of India going to clear those proposals and assure that the drinking water problem in these identified problem villages will be tackled, at least in the coming years

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: So far as water supply is concerned, no proposals are pending with us for clearance. During the period of such a crisis, the Department makes efforts to solve the problems whenever these are referred to it.

[English]

May I know which State you belong to?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I am from Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: I have got the figures with me regarding funds. You need not worry, I have got the figures in respect of all the States. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, as per my records, nothing is pending. The funds allocated for the rural drinking water supply schemes have already been sanctioned.

[English]

SHRI T. BASHEER: In the context of present drought situation you may allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this. It is very important.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: May I put a question? It is no good saying that 80% of the wells are successful. What happens when well is not successful? What are the other sources of water supply to the villages? Therefore, to say that 80% wells will be successful, as per report, will not satisfy the people.

Now the unprecedented drought is there. What steps are the State Governments going to take to see that the drinking water is supplied to every village and to every villager?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: For immediate supply of water we require money and at all levels we have cleared it. We have given money in advance. We have asked them to give us utilisation certificate and to get more money from us. We have also advised them

[Translation]

to protect the tanks and other water resources. They should see that water is not misused in any manner and all efforts are made to conserve it.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is not asking for guidelines. He is asking for pipelines.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: We have given. My friend Shri Makwana the other day announced it already.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shantaram Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Before I say Q. 286, may I wish Shri Jagdish Tytler, who is supposed to reply, a very very happy birth day.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I