

the minimum support price for cotton to a quite considerable extent. The increase is much higher than last year and we want that the cotton grower has to get more than his due and he should get remunerative price. That is the policy of the Government and we are implementing this policy. As regards the price of exported shirt etc., if an importer wants an expensive shirt, what is the harm in sending it to him ?

Review of Narmada Sagar Project

*329-A. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the latest thinking on the storage planning of Narmada Sagar dam, lowering the dam height by 56' would greatly reduce the submergence of forest area and the number of affected villages and people without affecting consumptive use of water for irrigation, drinking and industrial use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to review the project in order to avoid environmental disaster ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) There is no such proposal now under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Narmada Sagar Project has been cleared from environmental angle subject to certain stipulations to be complied *pari passu* with the progress of the project. These conditions are regularly monitored by the Narmada Control Authority.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am rather surprised at the casual manner in which the Hon. Minister has replied. This is the problem on which the national debate

amongst environmentalists, ecologists and also the action groups representing interests of displaced persons is going on. The reply to the question is, 'Does not arise' and 'There is no such proposal'. I would not like to quote the source. But I would like to ask the specific question (*Interruptions*) I would like to ask the supplementary question. (*Interruptions*) I have attended the zero hour and I am aware of the zero hour.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other papers also.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to quote the documents because she has said that there is no proposal. I would not like to quote the source of the secret documents. I would like to ask a specific question as to whether it is not a fact that an up-to-date data in respect of hydrology and environmental impact indicated through the broad study as mentioned in the question that if you reduce the height of the dam by 56'...

MR. SPEAKER : Is it 56 inches ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is 56 feet. (*Interruptions*) I was saying that if it is reduced by 56', is it not proposed, through concrete data made available to you that while on the one side the water for irrigation, drinking and industrial purpose, supply from Narmada Sagar etc. will remain intact and at the same time is it not a fact that on the basis of the papers and suggestions made to you, the gross submergence under Narmada Sagar will be reduced from 91,300 hectares to 35,600 hectares ? Is it not a fact that if you reduce the height, the forest area that is likely to be submerged will be reduced from 41,000 hectares to 8,075 hectares ? Is it not a fact that if you reduce the height, the number of affected villages will be reduced from 254 to 77 ? And, is it not a fact that the population affected will get reduced from 90,000 to 20,000 ? So, if these benefits are going to be accrued, will you kindly read the papers that are already presented to you, study them and

apply your mind...** and come forward with concrete solutions ?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I seek your protection as the Hon Member has asked many questions.

MR. SPEAKER : He has asked several questions in one question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Member is a very experienced and learned man. I agree that he knows many things. But I want to tell one thing that he is a bit weak in arithmetic. I am saying this because of his statement "I have made a study and I also know as to how this recommendation was made." First of all, I want to correct his arithmetic. He has mentioned 56 feet but 56 feet has no where been mentioned. The matter of 46 feet came up before the Ministry of Environment before according its approval as to what would be the effect of reducing level of full reservoir from 860 feet to 814 feet This was in the form of their suggestion. This aspect was examined not once but several times. The technical experts looked into this aspect several times and Central Water Commission has also investigated. I want to tell the Hon. Member that every scheme has both good and bad points. When we are modernising and taking up a very big project viz. 'Narmada Sagar Project', I want to tell you its advantages also. If F.R.L. is reduced by 46 feet from 860 feet, the life storage, capacity of reservoir will be reduced from 9750 million cubic metre to 1420 million cubic metre which means that only 15 per cent of usable water will remain. What is the need to start such a big project only for 15 per cent. The total irrigation capacity of the three related projects viz. Narmada Sagar, Onkareshwar and Sardar Sarowar of Narmada Basin will reduce to 5.3 lakh hectare from 20.1 lakh hectare. It means

that irrigation capacity will also be reduced in hectares and a crop worth Rs. 250 crore per year will not be produced and power generation will be reduced to 2,600 million unit from 5,700 million unit, which means that only 55 per cent will remain. Flood control capacity will also be reduced. As regards submergence, I want to tell you that the water level has increased up to 853 feet in monsoon. So, only that much area will be covered. The level of water in flood on F.R.L. is 860 feet which will increase only upto 861 feet. Therefore, it can also control flood. The submerged area referred to by you was 35,700 hectare in 254 villages which will be reduced to 91,000 hectares in 77 villages. Only 20,000 persons will be flood affected instead of 1 lakh and 29 thousand persons. I have explained everything in detail.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : First, I do not accept these figures because concrete data has been submitted to them and I would like to furnish further documents .

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please get it checked for upper level contains more water.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : My second supplementary is still more devastating. As far as this project is concerned, if the project is implemented, there will be certain ecological and environmental losses on the one side and if the project is to be constructed, there will be a certain construction cost. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the documents made available by the Department of Environment, Valley Development Authority, reveal that, whereas the entire cost of construction of this project, the entire Narmada Valley Development project, will be of the order of Rs. 25,000 crores, the environmental and ecological losses will be Rs. 30,923 crores, that is, Rs. 5000 crores more. In view of this, will you ensure that the cost-benefit ratio is properly assessed ? Since about one million

^{}Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

people are likely to be displaced from the entire valley project, also proper steps must be taken to ensure that there is no displacement and destruction of the livelihood of one million people in the area concerning this particular project. In that direction I want to know what are the concrete steps that are suggested before you try to implement this project.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir. earlier the cost of this project was Rs. 1393 crore but the revised cost comes to about Rs. 2400 crore now, as per information received by us.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a great difference between 2400 crore and 25,000 crore.

[*English*]

It must be Rs. 2,500 crores...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It has been printed also Rs. 25,000 crores.

MR. SPEAKER : It cannot be.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is for the entire Narmada Valley Development Project.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : It is a matter of arithmetic. When 46 can become 56 then there can be difference in it also. It is an estimated cost, we have not received full details as yet. Therefore the figures quoted by Hon. Member in this regard cannot be accepted. His second supplementary is regarding environment. The Ministry of Environment and Forests sanctioned this project in June 1987 only after studying all the aspects.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please let us know whether the environment cost is 30,923 crore or not ?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : As I have earlier told you that we have not yet

received details of the total cost. I do not know from where he got these details but I want to tell this much that a meeting was held on 13 April, 1987 which was convened under the Chairmanship of Hon. Prime Minister and attended by the Chief Ministers of all the concerned States, Ministers of Water Resources and senior officials of Centre and states and the Forest and Environment Department has cleared it only after looking into all aspects. Now if Hon. Member wants to know the details about the decisions taken there, for that I want at least 15-20 minutes, then I will be able to read out all the details.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Half an Hour discussion may be allowed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : He is always after Half-an-hour discussion... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : You can sit and discuss it. Why do you want Half an-Hour discussion ?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will think about discussion later on. First of all you withdraw your remarks.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : So, you have withdrawn your remarks...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri V. S. Rao.. ...

[*English*]

Export Processing Zone at
Visakhapatnam

*330. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;