

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : It is not an assurance.

MR. SPEAKER : The legal meaning of 'considering' is assurance. Mr. Minister, are you giving the assurance?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : We will examine it, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Even that amounts to an assurance.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : No, Sir. It is not an assurance. We will examine it.

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, the hon. Minister has given the allocation of water between Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh as per the Bachawat Award. But, at that time, in 1976, when the Bachawat Award was given the Telugu Ganga Project was not considered. However, subsequently the Telugu Ganga Project has been approved.

I would like to know how the water allocation should be provided for the Telugu Ganga Project. I would also like to know if the Polavaram Project is approved whether it is going to affect the allocation of water for Krishna in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : The Telugu Ganga Project was not envisaged at the time of Bachawat Award. But, subsequently, by means of agreements entered into by the Chief Minister of the States concerned, they have agreed to give 5 TMC of water each from within the quantity allotted under Bachawat Award for supply of drinking water to Madras City. Each participating State has agreed to give at the rate of 5 TMC of water. Only 15 TMC of water has been assured for supplying to Madras City.

As far as the Polavaram Project is concerned, it will not affect the utilisation of Krishna waters.

Bhargari and Thungabhadra Projects

*305. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted Bhargari and Thungabhadra irrigation projects to the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above projects have been cleared by the Union Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether some Members of Parliament have requested to the Union Government to take up flood control measures of the Bhargari and Thungabhadra projects;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, the question has been wrongly printed. It is not Thungabhadra but it is Kushabhadra. So, the word mentioned in the first part is not correct. It should be flood control. So, the notice of the question has gone wrongly on that basis. So, my point is whether this Kushabhadra and Bhargari projects about which in the last Session of Parliament in May, 1995, the Government had said that the Government of Orissa has given a proposal for Rs. 17 crores which has been sent back to the Government of Orissa for some clarifications. I would like to know whether the State Government has given their clarifications or not. If the Government has received it then the hon. Members who have written to the hon. Minister must get the reply. I am one of the Members who have written to the Prime Minister since it is a very acute problem in that basin. I have also written to the hon. Minister of Water Resources.

I would like to know whether he has any information about this, and if so, he can give it the same.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : The hon. Member has deviated from the question because of some printer's devil. Can I answer that?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, as I said, no proposals for the construction of any projects on these two rivers have been received from the Government of Orissa by the Central Water Commission.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : It is about flood control and not irrigation.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, two proposals have been received in this regard. One is Gobkund Cut Project and the other is Construction of Barrage across river Bhargavi near village Gobardhanpur. The project report for the first project, costing Rs. 16.9 crore, around Rs. 17 crore, was received in C.W.C. on 1.11.1994. The comments of Central Water Commission were finalised on flood aspects and sent to Orissa State Government for their compliance on 3.1.1995 and 30.1.1995. The State Government had sent replies to the comments of Finance Wing of the Ministry of Water Resources on 12.7.1995. Further comments of the Finance Wing of the Ministry of Water Resources and comments from Cost Engineering (Hydro) Directorate are being sent shortly. That is the reply that has come from the State Government.

Regarding the construction of barrage on Bhargari river, the project report estimated to cost Rs. 5.45 crore was received in C.W.C. on 7.12.1994. The Project report was technically examined and comments sent to Orissa State Government on 3.1.1995 and 6.2.1995. The replies to C.W.C. comments are still awaited from the Government of Orissa.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, I want to know one thing. It is an acute problem beginning from the freedom movement days. We have been pressing that this problem should be solved. I have written to the Prime Minister stating that since the Orissa Government cannot mobilise the resources to that extent, the Centre should take it up as a Central project and complete it in the shortest time so that the suffering of the people for centuries may end. I have also written a letter to the Minister of Water Resources concerning this issue. I want to know whether the hon. Minister of Water Resources has taken any action on my request and my request to the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, as I said it is for the State Government to provide funds. The Government of India cannot directly take it up.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Sir, the river Mahanadi is a perennial source of floods in Orissa. The Hirakund dam and the Brahmani dam are the national assets. The catchment area of the Hirakund dam has been reported to have lot of sand-cast and sand deposits. I want to know whether the Government has been in receipt of any such proposal to clear up the sand-cast in the catchment area as well as to construct embankment in the tail-end area to avoid flood and to control floods.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, the project for modernisation of Hirakund distribution system costing about Rs. 3,260 crore was received in December, 1984. It was sent back in April, 1989 to the State Government and the reply of the State Government is still awaited.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, Orissa alone accounts for ten percent, one-tenth of the entire national water resources. That State, with such abundant water resources, is suffering from poverty because water management scheme has not been properly implemented. It has not also been properly formulated till today. So, in that context I want to ask a question. Of course, it is the responsibility of the State Government to mobilise the resources. But, at the time of Plan allocation or discussion on Plan allocation the Ministry of Water Resources should take this fact into consideration and adequate funds should be provided so that the State Government will not find it difficult to implement these schemes in some places to control floods in other places and also to combat the situation of drought etc. It is a comprehensive scheme. I want to know whether sufficient funds would be provided at the time of Plan allocation for the State.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, it is for the State Government to project its Plan requirements.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : The State Government has projected its requirements so far as the Hirakund Project is concerned. It is one of the pioneer projects of the country. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone for it in 1946 and it is yet to be complete in all respects.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that while discussing the details in the Planning Commission the State Government can prioritise the project and give the preference. We have no objection to that.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is Over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Fire In Coal Mines

*306. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :
SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether fires have been raging in the coal mines of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited for the past seven decades as reported in the "Economic Time" dated July 24, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey work conducted by the World Bank on the control of these fires has been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) and (b) The first occurrence of coalfield fires in Jharia was reported in 1916. At the time of nationalisation of coking coal mines in 1972, 70 fires covering an area of 17.32 sq. kms. were identified.

(c) to (e) Under the World Bank aided technical assistance project, a diagnostic study of Jharia coalfield fires is in progress. This study comprises development of detailed fire fighting programme and preparation of Environmental Management Plan for Jharia coalfield. The study is expected to be completed by mid 1996.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment In Oil and Natural Gas

*307. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :