devaluation, our interest charges and debts to foreign countries have increased exorbitantly, what remedial measures are being taken to take away the bad effect of devaluation so far as our foreign-exchange position is concerned?

Shri Morarji Desai: Let him wait for the budget

Prof. R K. Amin: Now that he has agreed that devaluation has failed is it because the devaluation was not enough or the post operative treatment was not given quite well? What is the reason?

Mr Speaker Again it is a general question

Shri S. S Kothari Will the Minister kindly let us know to what extent devaluation has added to the price level and the inflationary spiral?

Shri Morarji Desai: It is not possible for me to assess it

Shri S. S Kothari: But does he agree that it has added substantially to the price level?

Shri Morarji Desai Prices have increased for what reasons I cannot say

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to a section of economic and financial opinion in this country who are canvassing for a further dose of devaluation based on the fact that the international value of the rupee has further gone down? Have the Government taken account of these views and have they any proposal under consideration for a further dose of devaluation?

Shri Morarji Desai: There is absolutely no poposal for further devaluation before the Government

गंडक बांध योजना

+

*45. **श्री विभूति मिश्र :**
क० ना० तिवारी :
डा० महादेव प्रसाद :

क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या गंडक बांध योजना को पूरा करने तथा जून, 1967 तक सिंचाई के लिए किसानों को पानी उपलब्ध कराने का कार्यक्रम निर्धारित लक्ष्य के अनुसार चल रहा है,

(ख) इस बांध के पूर्ण रूप से तैयार हो जाने पर कितने क्षेत्र में सिंचाई हो सकेगी, और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर नकारात्मक हो तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr K. L Rao): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) Work is in steady progress on the Gandak Project Although efforts were made to complete the construction of the barrage by June, 1967, it is now expected to be completed only by June 1968 and release water for irrigation purpose from the *kharif* season of 1968

(b) 36 lakh acres

(c) Unexpected early floods in 1966 damaged the Coffer dam and a violent gale in May, 1966 uprooted the construction colony and electrical installations

श्री विभूति मिश्र : स्टेटमेंट में कहा गया है गंडक के बारे में कि

"Work is in steady progress on the Gandak Project"

इस बैराज के बनाने का काम इस साल 30 जून तक होना था फिर इसको 30 जून 1968 तक टाला गया । इसके अलावा इसके 109 पुल बनाने हैं जिन में से तीन पिछले साल कम्पलीट हुए और छ: पुलों पर काम लगा था । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि गंडक बैराज और गंडक का और सारा काम कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा । स्टेटमेंट में लिखा हुआ है कि स्टेडी प्रोग्रेस हो रही है जो कि मालूम नहीं होती है ।

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true, last year we expected the barrage to be completed by June, 1967. But, unfortunately, there were some early floods—I have given the reasons in reply to part (c) of the question—and violent gale which disrupted the whole work so that we could not start the work earlier as we programmed. Therefore, there has been a setback and we expect the barrage to be completed by June, 1968.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : बिहार सरकार को केन्द्रीय सरकार ने 150 करोड रुपये इरिगेशन के लिये दिये है । इस मे और बहुत सी स्कीमे भी है । तेनूघाट है सोन बैराज है कोसी की योजना भी है । केवल गंडक का खर्चा है 125 करोड रुपया । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस का काम किस तरह से चलेगा ? अभी इस प्रश्न के पहले डिवैलुएशन की चर्चा होती रही । गंडक बैराज पर पिछले साल तक बल्कि आज तक 25 करोड़ रुपया खर्च हो पाया है । तब फिर 100 करोड़ कितने दिनों में खर्च होगा और हमारी सरकार गंडक बैराज को कितने दिनो में पूरा करेगी जब कि गंडक नदी के मुहाने पर 49 मील पथरीली जमीन है । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसका काम ढीला क्यों चल रहा है ।

Dr. K. L. Rao: The full amount required for completion of the Gandak Barrage during the Fourth Plan has been provided for tentatively in the Fourth Plan. Therefore, we expect the work to be completed by the end of the Fourth Plan—the Gandak Barrage, the canals and all that complete in all respects.

Shri K. N. Pandey: May I know whether the Ministry has knowledge of this fact that there was a breach in the Chittauni Bund in Uttar Pradesh and if the retard bund is not completed there is likelihood of the entire work done so far on this canal being affected?

Dr. K. L. Rao: What the hon. Member has said is quite true, that on account of the breach in the Chittauni Bund there is danger for the Gandak Canal. Therefore, the Centre has been pressing on the State to see that sufficient precaution is taken for construction of the bund.

श्री मणिभाई जे० पटेल: मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह काम उन्होंने कब से अपने हाथ में लिया है और कितने शीघ्र वह इसको पूरा कर सकेंगे । इसमे इतनी देरी लगने का क्या कारण है ?

Dr. K. L Rao: The Gandak Barrage was started in 1963. There has been delay essentially due to want of finance—our finance position is rather tight and therefore there has been trouble So far, out of 36 bays we have completed 20 and we expect to complete another ten before the monsoons. We expect to complete the rest, as I said already, by June 1968

श्री प्रबल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि गंडक बैराज से उत्तर प्रदेश मे कितनी भूमि की सिंचाई हो सकेगी ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: In Uttar Pradesh 6.5 lakh acres will be irrigated on account of the Gandak Barrage.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : जब श्री फखरुद्दीन अहमद साहब सिंचाई मंत्री थे तब उन्होंने आधे घंटे की चर्चा में इस सदन को विश्वास

बिलाया था कि इस काम को केन्द्रीय सरकार लेने जा रही है क्योंकि बिहार सरकार की औकात नहीं है कि इस पर पैसा खर्च करे। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि श्री फखरुद्दीन अहमद के कमिटमेंट के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने क्या किया है क्या वह उस को निभायेंगे ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Unfortunately, it has not been possible so far to take up the project under the Central Government. Nevertheless, as I submitted, since the full amount required for this project has been provided in the Fourth Plan there will be no difficulty for the completion of the project.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : श्री फखरुद्दीन अहमद ने कहा था कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस स्कीम को ले कर चलायेगी। मंत्री महोदय ने इस का जवाब नहीं दिया। मैं चाहता हूं कि वह इसका जवाब दे। वह उस समय भी तो मंत्री थे।

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true that my predecessor has said that the project will be taken up in the Central sector. But that has not happened. Except the Rajasthan Canal project, no other project has been taken up so far in the Central sector.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह गंडक बन्ध योजना पिछले तीन चार सालो से उलझी हुई है और इस के बारे मे मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर दिया कि वह जल्दी इसे पूरा करेंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि जिस समय यह योजना बनाई गई थी उस समय इसके लिए कितना पैसा तय किया गया था। उतने पैसे मे यह योजना नहीं बन सकी यह स्पष्ट है। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि इस में कितना और पैसा लगेगा और इस योजना को पूरा करने मे और कितना समय लगेगा और इससे कितनी भूमि की सिंचाई हो सकेगी ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It is true that this is a very big project with an irrigation potential of 36 lakhs acres. So, Government is anxious to complete this project as early as possible. Unfortunately, there were some difficulties. Now that we have provided all the amount required for the project in the Fourth Plan, we expect this to be completed by the end of the Fourth Plan.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं ने पूछा था कि इस के पूरा होने में कितना समय लगेगा साल लगेगा दो साल लगेगें....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होने बतला दिया।

Dr. K. L. Rao: The total cost of the project is Rs 121 crores. We have so far spent Rs 35 crores and we are providing Rs 86 crores in the Fourth Plan.

Financial Assistance to Uttar Pradesh

***46. Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have recently demanded some financial aid from the Centre to increase the Dearness Allowance of its employees;

(b) if so, the amount demanded; and

(c) the amount sanctioned?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) No formal demand has been received during the last several months.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it is a fact that when the strike by the UP State Government employees was going on the ex-Chief Minister of UP was assured of a sum of Rs. 3½ crores by the ex-Finance Minister. Since parity in the matter of payment of dearness allowance between Central Government and State Government employees has been accepted in principle by all the State Governments, including UP, and since it cannot be implemented without help from the Centre, may I know whether the