

RECOVERY OF DUES FROM EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

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*1476. SHRI N. K. SOMANI :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sought the help of the State Governments to recover the mounting dues from the employers to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) the total amount due from various establishments; and

(c) the reaction of State Governments in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR) : (a) and (c). Under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, the State Governments have been empowered to recover the provident fund dues as arrears of land revenue and also to sanction prosecutions of the defaulting establishments. At the Regional Meetings of Labour Ministers, the State Governments were also requested to extend their co-operation in the matter of speedy liquidation of arrears and they have assured their full cooperation in this regard.

(b) As on the 31st December, 1969 a sum of about Rs. 14 crores was due from the defaulting unexempted establishments.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : In view of the fact that these arrears are mounting year after year, I would like to know what specific steps the Central Government is proposing to take apart from the cooperation of the State Governments in this matter so that these recoveries could be made in time and the arrears realised.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : We are instituting proceedings for recoveries. We have filed 46,566 cases for recovery of arrears and also prosecutions. The amounts recovered are : in 1964-65—Rs. 1.42 crores; 1965-66—Rs. 1.57 crores; 1966-67—Rs. 2.8 crores; 1967-68—Rs. 1.71 crores; 1968-69—Rs. 2.2 crores and 1969-70—Rs. 2.5 crores. In this connection it would also be remem-

bered that the total amount collected so far is about Rs. 1500 crores.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : Every company comes to the Central Government at one time or another either for an import licence or some other kind of licence when sometimes there is an insistence whether the income tax dues have been paid up-to-date. May I know if similar opportunities would be taken by the Central Government also to require a certificate that the entire dues in the matter of employees provident fund have been paid before these licences or facilities are either offered or renewed to these companies ?

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : A very good suggestion.

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : The Board of Trustees have appointed a Sub-Committee and the Sub-Committee has just completed its report. Apart from this, the Estimates Committee has also made certain recommendations. All these recommendations will be examined and also the suggestion made by the hon. Member will be taken into account while devising ways and means to recover the dues.

MR. SPEAKER : The question hour is over.

SHRI S. KUNDU : I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee regarding this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry the question hour is over. You may send it in writing to him.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

गंगनहर और भाखड़ा नहर को पानी उपलब्ध करना

S.N.Q. 30. श्री हरदयाल बेबगुण :

श्री प० ल० बाबूपाल :

श्री रामजी राम :

श्री तुलसोहन राम :

श्री भोला नाथ मास्टर :

क्या सिंचाई तथा विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तान को नहरी पानी देना बन्द कर दिया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो श्रीगंगानगर में गंग-नहर तथा भाखड़ा नहर को पानी उपलब्ध न करने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त नहरों में पानी न होने के कारण इस गर्मी के मौसम में स्थानीय जनता को पानी की भारी कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है और यहां तक कि उनके जीवन के लिये भी खतरा पैदा हो गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस समस्या के समाधान के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

सिखाई तथा विद्युत मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) गंगनहर को और राजस्थान की भाखड़ा नहरों को पानी की सप्लाई पाकिस्तान से ले लिये गए पानी को ध्यान में रख कर उन के भागों के अनुसार की जा रही है ।

(ग) इस समय पीने के लिये पानी देने हेतु नहरें पारी से चलाई जा रही हैं । क्योंकि गांवों में पानी को संचित करने के प्रबंध पर्याप्त नहीं हैं, इस लिये गंग नहर और भाखड़ा के कुछ क्षेत्रों में पेय जल की कठिनाई है ।

(घ) शुष्क महीनों के दौरान नहरों की सप्लाई स्थिति में स्थानीय सुधार पांग बांध के पूरा होने पर संभव हो जाएगा ।

श्री हरबयाल देवगुण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, गंगानगर, बीकानेर वगैरह में भयंकर जल-संकट है और यदि राजस्थान नहर पूरी हो गई होती तो यह संकट बहुत कुछ दूर हो गया होता और देश की खाद्य समस्या भी हल हो गई होती । तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान को इन दरियाओं का पानी देने के बाद आप के पास कितना पानी बचता है और आप कितना पानी इन नहरों को दे रहे हैं इस क्षेत्र के जल संकट को दूर करने के लिए ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : Today the amount of water that is flowing in Ravi and Beas is 13,000 cusecs. Leaving 4,000 cusecs to the pre-Partition users, the balance 9,000 cusecs will be divided between Punjab and Rajasthan. Rajasthan's share is 5,000 cusecs. Out of 5,000 cusecs, 2,700 cusecs is given to the Rajasthan Bhakra canal and 2300 cusecs is given to the Gang canal.

श्री हरबयाल देवगुण : राजस्थान के जलसंकट को ध्यान में रखते हुये क्या यहां अधिक पानी देने की व्यवस्था करेंगे क्योंकि यहां की स्थिति पंजाब और हरयाणा की अपेक्षा ज्यादा गंभीर है और यह भी देश का एक भाग है तो पंजाब से हमारा लगाव होते हुए भी हम यहां के जल संकट को देखते हुए यहां अधिक पानी देने के पक्ष में हैं ?

(व्यवधान) केवल 5 हजार क्यूसेक दे रहे हैं 13 हजार में से जब कि यहां के लोगों को पानी पीने को नहीं मिल रहा है । इसलिए मैं यह पूछ रहा हूँ कि यहां के जल संकट को देखते हुए यहां ज्यादा जल छोड़ने के ऊपर विचार करेंगे और दूसरे यह कि पांग डैम को जल्दी तैयार कराने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे और भीम डैम को भी तैयार कराने के लिए कार्यवाही करेंगे ?

DR. K. L. RAO : In the month of April due to low rainfall there is low flow in the rivers and now the rivers are picking up and there will be no trouble and Rajasthan will get its due share. What the hon. Member has said is that additional water should be released for giving the drinking water in these areas. The only question is that these villages served by the canals do not have sufficient amount of storage capacity. When the canals are cut off as they are run by rotation and if there are no adequate storage capacities, the release of additional canal water alone will not help them. But anyway, I will take this up with Rajasthan Government if release of any additional water will be of use to them

to provide drinking water there. Regarding Pong Dam, we are trying to expedite it as much as possible. We cannot utilise fully the waters of Beas unless we complete the Pong Dam as early as possible. We hope it will be completed by 1973.

श्री अँकार लाल बोहरा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पाकिस्तान को पानी-सप्लाई तो बन्द हो गई लेकिन न तो पोंग डैम बना और न राजस्थान कैनल को ही कम्पलीट करने की कोई निश्चित अवधि निर्धारित हुई। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो पानी अतिरिक्त वहां पड़ा हुआ है उस अतिरिक्त पानी को राजस्थान कैनल में उपयोग करने की दृष्टि से राजस्थान कैनल को निश्चित रूप से कितने समय के अंदर कम्पलीट करने की योजना है और बीकानेर तथा गंगानगर आदि के इलाके में गर्मी के कारण बड़ी तेजी से जलसंकट बढ़ गया है तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान कैनल में तो पानी का उपयोग तभी हो सकता है जबकि कैनल कम्पलीट हो जाय और वहां पानी नहीं मिला तो हजारों पशु मर जाएंगे और अकाल का संकट और भी गहरा हो जायगा, इसलिए भाखड़ा और गंगनहर का कितना पानी आप वहां अभी छोड़ने जा रहे हैं और राजस्थान सरकार से इस के बारे में राजस्थान में सरकार से निश्चित रूप से आप की क्या बातें हुई हैं? आप कितना पानी छोड़ने जा रहे हैं?

DR. K. L. RAO : With regard to Rajasthan canal we expect the first phase to be completed by the end of the 4th plan. We are trying to take up the second stage provided we get the funds. We are hoping to get some additional funds and we hope it will be completed by the 5th plan. The first phase will be completed in the next 3 or 4 years; and the second stage will take about 6 to 8 years. To repeat again what I have said, if any additional waters in Gang canal or the feeder canal will help in providing drinking water supplies, I will try to get that.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : After a visit to this area, I want to say about the

horrible conditions in these four or five drought affected areas of Rajasthan namely, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, and Barmer. They are living in horrible conditions and one has to travel 10 miles on a camel's back in order to fetch a pitcher of water.

Some people cannot drink saltish water. Therefore, they cover their stomach with wet bandages so that they may not feel thirsty. Such are the conditions in Rajasthan.

I want to know as to what the Government is doing to arrange to supply drinking water at least in these drought affected areas. Are they trying to solve the problem expeditiously? A question was posed by Shri Bora as to how you are going to utilise the released water by Pakistan by constructing these canals at an early date.

DR. K. L. RAO : As far as drinking water for Bikaner is concerned, Rajasthan canal will provide. For Jodhpur, water is supplied from Jawai reservoir. But, that has not got sufficient water. We are trying to divert water from Sei river so that adequate water may be available to Jodhpur area.

Regarding Barmer and Jaisalmer, the construction of Stage II of the Rajasthan Canal is in progress. When completed, it will give plenty of water to these areas. As regards Pong Dam, as I submitted already, we are trying to construct it as early as possible. I hope it will be completed in 1973.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

URDU SCRIPT IGNORED IN A.I.R. PUBLICATIONS

*1473. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the A.I.R. ignores Urdu script in their publications of every type; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?