

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply had stated that hydrological deficiencies were discovered in 33 dams and out of them deficiencies were removed in respect of 25 dams and review in respect of 8 dams is incomplete. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the number of dams in respect of which review is still to be undertaken.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are there any dams which are not reviewed for safety and if there are any which are not reviewed or examined by the experts, by what time, it would be done?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : I have submitted, Sir, that it is a continuous process. We have already done that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Sir, in the light of your guidance, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister. This is a very serious thing that structural and hydrological deficiencies have been found out. Thirty three dams have been identified only in four States and there may be other dams which have got the same kind of deficiency. The Government has ultimately to seek the assistance of the World Bank to identify these deficiencies and also to seek the financial assistance. May I know — in the case of the other 600 dams which are going to be built — taking lessons from these structural and hydrological deficiencies, may be there may be default in the project reports or in design, whether the Government will take care in future so that these 600 dams do not suffer from the same kind of deficiency; and whether the Government will take necessary steps. I want to know this.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : It is a good suggestion from the hon. Member. We will examine as to what is wrong.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : My question is a general one. But in order to ask it as an effective one, I want to go to specific.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not go to the specific question. Otherwise, he will just get up and say that he does not have the information.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : It is not a specific question, Sir, it is a general question. It was in view of the October 1991 earthquake in Uttarkashi that the whole debate on Tehri dam came up. Experts and specialists these days are giving us so much warning about the environmental consequences of Mega dams. May I know whether the Government would shift the focus of its policy from Mega dams to mini and micro hydel schemes?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, subsequent to the occurrence of the Uttarkashi earthquake, a review of the works was undertaken by the National Committee on Seismic Design Parameters constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources and the design of the Dam was reviewed and endorsed.

[Translation]

Installation of Closed Circuit Cameras in Jails

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423. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Governments for installation of closed circuit cameras to watch the activities of the prisoners in the jails under the scheme of 'Modernisation of Prison Administration';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government there on; and

(d) the funds provided/proposed to be provided to the State Governments for the purpose?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Tripura have included closed circuit cameras/T.Vs as part of their proposals for financing under the scheme of 'Modernisation of Prison Administration'.

(c) and (d). A sum of Rs. 48 lakhs has been released to these State Governments for the purchase of close circuit Television/Cameras.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, has work on the installation of come as started in the five states mentioned by the hon. Minister in his reply to part (a) and (b) of the question? How many persons have been trained in handling this work and whether there has been any improvement in the efficiency of the jail administration?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Yes, Sir.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the jails lack essential facilities. I would like to know whether such facilities would be provided in the jails of Rajasthan where terrorists have been lodged?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : I cannot claim that the conditions in the jails are satisfactory but in order to effect-improvement at the national level...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : His question is not about improvement in the jails in general but about the jails in Rajasthan where terrorists have been lodged.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : The grants provided to the States for the purpose of jails administration cover this aspect also.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : What is being done for Rajasthan?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given to me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs, whether we have the closed circuit cameras installed in Tihar Jail the modernisation of security services in Tihar Jail, and whether has been, in any way, ineffective and weak; and whether that was really the cause for which a recent transfer has taken place?

MR. SPEAKER : The last part is disallowed.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I have asked the question. You may kindly disallow the third part, if you want, But there should be a reply.

MR. SPEAKER : I am saying the last part.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : That is really relevant.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, the first part of the question is in affirmative, "Yes".

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, the reform and modernisation of jails and ameliorating the conditions of the prisoners have been engaging the attention of this country for sometime and particularly, those who want extension of human rights to the prisoners as well. It is somewhat saddening that one of the allegations appears to be that the inmates of Tihar Jail were allowed to approach the National Human Rights Commission directly. We all thought, this is what they should always have, namely, the right to approach the Human Rights Commission. Every citizen of India must have that right. Because that right was allowed to the prisoner, that seemed to be one of the reasons for the transfer of this lady.

Can you tell me whether any violation of the Conduct rules or Jail rules had taken place? Is that the reason for this transfer?

I wonder whether that is the reason for the transfer.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing any question on transfers. Otherwise, we will be flooded with such questions.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am ready to modify the question. All right, I will not use the word 'transfer'. It may be clarified whether any violation of either the Conduct Rules or the rules of the Jail Manual has at all taken place.

MR. SPEAKER : You mean in Tihar Jail?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I want to know whether to approach the Human Rights Commission is in violation of the rules, When the media is allowed to enter, when somebody is allowed to write biographies, etc., — obviously, all these things are leaked to the press — does it amount to violation of Government rules or of the law?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if you have the information, you can give it. Otherwise, we are not going to compel you to give the information.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am not bothered about the transfer of one particular lady. But I do bother about the good work being done there. (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record. Otherwise, all the hon. Members will be pleading the case of some officer or the other on the floor. Nothing of this sort will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, financial assistance has been produced to some of the States for installing closed circuit-T.Vs/cameras in jails. I would like to know whether it had been ascertained before hand that installation of these closed circuit T.V.s and cameras would not violate the jails code? In Jammu and Kashmir the prisoners had escaped from the jail through an underground 20 feet long tunnel. I would like to know whether the closed circuit-T.V.s and cameras were not operating at that time or had not been installed?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : The allegation of the hon. Member is baseless that some of the State are being favoured vis-a-vis other States. The quantum of assistance to each state is in proportion to the number of jails there. An amount of Rs. 45 crore had been allocated to the various states and Union Territories since 1987 till 1992 to modernise jails which included security, communication and other facilities.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The last part of my question has not been replied to.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : In the states like Maharashtra, the police department is making intensive use of cameras and closed circuit T.V.s. In Maharashtra a large number of TADA detainees are lodged in Nagpur, Pune and Bombay jails. Is there any provision to instal closed circuit T.Vs/cameras in these jails and whether any proposal has been received from Maharashtra, if so, has any amount been sanctioned to them?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : There is a wrong notion that a scheme to instal CC T.Vs has been envisaged. We sanction the funds to any State desirous of installing CC T.Vs.

[English]

Reservation in Promotion for SCs/STs

*424. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken or propose to take adequate steps for protecting the rights of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe incumbents in Government services for reservation in promotion by way of amendment to the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

* Not recorded.