

[Shri Somnath Rath]

Previously, some villages which are situated on the banks of rivers are supplied water through pipe lines. Will that be taken into consideration? Further, in Orissa the coastal areas we get only the saline water. Orissa is invaded either by drought or by flood every year and also is inhabited by 38% of Adivasis and Harijans besides backward people. Will the Minister give special attention to Orissa and provide more funds?

The hon Minister of State has also announced in the other House that the money allotted for the drinking water is diverted to other areas. Will the Hon. Minister take specific interest in this matter and instruct the State Government to utilise the money for the same purpose?

18.12 hrs.

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATIONAL 1986.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SARI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Draft National Policy on Education 1986 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt-2608/86].

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION--CONTD.

[Translation]

Technological Mission for Drinking Water

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per your directive, I would straight away put the questions.

How is it that the Technology Mission is being set up after a period of 38 years of independence; why did you keep silent all these years.

18.14 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH in the Chair]

Ever since the First Five Year Plan was launched it has been said that all our development works would be completed under the five Year Plans. Assurances have been given many times in this regard. You have said that all such works will be completed by 1999. Could it be true in view of the fact that the drinking water problem has not been solved in the past 38 years in spite of assurances given in this regard; and why has the Technology Mission been set up after 38 years? I hope you are not misleading the people. The people living in Delhi and other areas get 100 litres of water per head, but what is the per capita availability in the rural areas? Kindly tell us the average quantum of water being supplied in those areas. Thirdly, why was it decided to grant certain allocations for the urban areas during the recent State Conference? The towns and cities have their own municipalities and corporations and should, therefore implement their schemes themselves. Funds to the tune of crores of rupees are allocated for the urban areas because they are very vocal but funds are denied to the rural areas because they are not so vocal and cannot project their demands. Why should only the urban people get more water and more allocations? Kindly tell us how much of water do the people living in the rural areas get per head? You should stop providing for the urban areas. Shri Ghafoor has already sanctioned Rs. 66 crores to them. I do not understand what you are saying. You are very experienced and an expert in giving answers. You should be assigned the task of giving all the replies. I bow to your acumen in this respect. However, I could not understand your reply... (Interruptions) Mr. Bhagat has also joined hands. Whatever, was lacking till now, has been made good. Now there are three stalwarts—Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh.

In reply to one of my questions, it was stated that by making use of low cost technology, alternative but effective methods would be found to tackle the problem of capital intensive rural drinking

water supply project. You are reducing our allocation by 45 per cent. Will you be able to accomplish this task with 45 per cent less of resources. It is marvellous. (*Interruptions*). You have to make use of technology. You keep aside the Project Report and do something for the affected people. I would say two or three more things. Will the hon. Minister please tell us about my constituency and that of Shri Viridhi Chander Jain.

S. BUTA SINGH : Why are you excluding my constituency ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : That is separate. I would say that the Government has committed a mistake in closing the step wells. If those step wells had not been closed, the people could have drawn water with buckets. Next, when Shri Bhisma Narain Singh took over, he said that hand pumps should be installed every where. So much of money was wasted on each handpump and, besides, most of them went out of order. In the district of Pali, in Rajasthan, which is my constituency, 172 handpumps are out of order. So, the arrangement must be made for this.

Shri Buta Singh Ji, Shri Rath is in the Chair and people as rich as you, are sitting here. In summer, people set up pias for providing water to the passers-by and in our area 172 hand pumps are out of order and rig machines are also not available to put those into order. I would also like to say that the hill, Adivasi and other such areas where the well are sunk in rocky terrain, combined machines are not available to tackle the problem. Will you make such machines available, so that rocks could be broken and during this summer will you ensure that the people are provided with potable water, and the brackish water which is their original source is only used for the purposes of bathing and washing as it is harmful for drinking purposes. Will you also devise a method to treat brackishness to make it potable ?

I also want to say that there was no Consultative Committee for this purpose. Kindly set up a Committee so that we can

meet the high officials who give you their reports. Let us also judge their abilities and if possible, imbles some of their qualities. I think that they are misleading you. Therefore, you must arrange for a meeting.

With this, I would conclude.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have kindly given me the opportunity to participate in this very important subject which involves the life and death of the human being and also especially in this International decade of water supply and sanitation from 1981-1991.

Sir, in this decade the united National General Assembly of which India is a participant and also in all other international organisation, they have decided that in this decade, that is, from 1981-1991, the people of the developing countries should be provided with cent per cent drinking water and sanitation facilities. But due to constraint of resources, we have targeted to achieve by 1990, 90% in urban areas for supply of drinking water and 85% in the rural areas. In this context, may I know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry and the State Government who are engaged in working out schemes for the supply of drinking water to the people, the manpower engaged in this scheme, are going to fulfil this minium need, that is supply of drinking water ?

Sir, Prof. K. J. Nath, who is the professor of All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, has opined that among the engineers, technicians engaged in the work, only about 20% are trained in Environmental Science and Public Health Engineering and the rest are not trained. Of course, it is a good thing that the Government is taking step in regard to some of those engineers to get trained in Environmental Science and also Public Health Engineering deputing them for P.G. Course where such subject is taught. But the backlog is increasing day by day. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the

[Shri Chintamani Jena]

programme of the Government to train all these technicians and others? My friend Mr. Jain, has raised some points about the desert areas and the same difficulty is faced in saline belt also. For the saline belt, the World Bank assistance has covered the Saurashtra region, but the work has not yet been taken up. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider separate programme either through the world Bank assistance or some such type of assistance from mforeign countries to provide drinking water to the people in the saline belt where sweet water is not at all available even at 2000 ft. below and even if water is available it becomes saline after some months or a few years? In this context, may I know what is the Government's thinking? Sir, in Orissa State, the major portion of the area is coastal belt. So, drinking water in the saline belt is very acute. I would therefore like to know from the hon. Minister what measures the Government is going to take to provide drinking water to the people living in the saline belt.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, Shri Bhanu Pratap Sharma has raised some basic issues and I am happy that he gave me an opportunity to further elaborate some of the aspects of the mission. Now, it is not that this is the only thing that in the thesis only studies have been made. But areas have been identified, agencies have been fixed, solutions have been found. Just as I mentioned in my reply to Shri Vridhi Chander Jain, we have already adopted the strategies and the strategy for the mission is going to be multi-disciplinary.

It will be an integrated approach for adoption to identify the project areas in the States. For this the strategy proposed to be developed is that the difficult areas with regard to water supply situation in the States and the Union Territories would constitute the basic geographical location of the project for the Mission's main activities through hydrogeological extension and areas of ecological studies. The second thrust in the selection of difficult

areas would be factors like rarity of water sources like arid, semi-arid and hilly regions, as also contamination of water sources by excess chemicals and pathogenic micro-organisms etc. Therefore, special efforts will have to be made in the selection of difficult areas,

I would also highlight as to what are the institutions which have helped us in finding out a solution for some of the problem areas so far as quality of water is concerned. We have already with the cooperation of the following institutions been able to evolve technologies for overcoming the problems of salinity. Technologies have been developed by various institutions within the country like Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, popularly known BARC, Bombay, Defence Research Laboratory, DRL, Jodhpur, Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar etc. Different technologies that have been developed are reverse osmosis, electro-dialysis, and multi-stage flash evaporation process, which can bring down salinity within tolerable limits. These are very well tested techniques and these are the techniques not to be applied for the first time. These well known reputable agencies have been working in this field. The Technology Mission would attempt at providing drinking water in identified projects areas through a multi-disciplinary approach.

Some of the hon. Members mentioned about the special problems, just as Orissa has — you also, Sir, very kindly mentioned that — the problem of brackishness of the water. As I mentioned, we have already identified through these well known institutions the special thrust areas and these institution have evolved special technology.

The problem of brackishness and salinity is normally prevalent in coastal area, areas with welldeveloped irrigation system and coral islands. Attempt has already been made to tackle such problems through the process of reverse osmosis, multi stage flash evaporation process of electro-dialysis, solar desalination and radial borings. Seven desalination plants have been set up on a pilot basis by CSMCRI, Bhavnagar, BARC, Bombay and

DRL, Jodhpur and the working of these pilot plants is being evaluated, by NEERI, Nagpur to ascertain the cost effectiveness of the different methodologies used.

I have already mentioned some of the names of the institutions which have identified the various problems which are the with regard to the water content, and the technologies to they have developed are iron removal plant package, Nalconda technique, reverse osmosis and electro-dialysis, multi stage flash evaporation process, water filter candle, charcoal water filter, pot chlorination for wells, chlorine tablets and ampules for disinfection, ferro-cement water storage tanks, water analysis facilities test kits for measuring residual chlorine, portable physical chemical and biological analysis kit etc. Various Institutions have worked and we are launching this mission after a thorough study and very careful identification of various problem areas.

[Translation]

Dagaji has staked that we are expert in misleading how can I compete with him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

He also wanted to know, how we would fulfil the Mission within the money available at our disposal. There is no doubt that the money available is far less than what has been estimated.

It is only 45 per cent of the money that is normally required. As I said, it is required under ideal conditions with ideal methods. You could have taken piped water from Jodhpur to Jaisalmer. But that would have cost 7000 crores of rupees. Now we are trying to develop new technologies with the help of our institutions and Pali water which is not fit for drinking will become fit for drinking and the cost would be only one tenth. The same water will be treated by these reputable national institutions which are well known for their research work and they will make the water available. So, we are trying to reduce the installation cost of these technologies.

Shri Vridhi Chand Jain has asked about the maintenance of the tubewells. No doubt, the State Government's job is to maintain the tubewells. Through voluntary organisations also, we have provided for the maintenance of the water works. These voluntary organisations will be helping the rural drinking water supply schemes.

Shri Dagaji wanted to know about the rigs. Rajasthan Government was allocated funds for procuring rigs. Unfortunately, the order by the State Government has not so far been placed. Only now we received a letter for technical clearance from the DGTE and it will be given a priority basis. But the rigs, as you know, have to be purchased by the State Government. We sanction the money. They were to place orders not only for rigs but also for 100 tankers, which are sanctioned as a special consideration to Rajasthan, under the direction of the hon. Prime Minister, although he does not encourage the transportation cost on water supply. He wants that the local sources should be made available and he wants that we should concentrate and utilise the resources at our disposal to create localised sources. But looking at the difficult conditions in Gujarat and Rajasthan, he was kind enough to allow us to utilise the money for transportation of water. Therefore tankers were sanctioned both to Gujarat as well as Rajasthan. I am sure the State Government will make them available within a short time so that people's hardship is mitigated.

You also wanted to know about the drinking water projects in Orissa. Your suggestion will be taken care of and we will see how best we can help the Orissa Government in making rural water supply schemes more successful. With these words, I hope that the hon. members will agree with me that what is possible is being done. We hope that with the coming into being of this mission, the position will improve. There will not only be one mission. There will be four sub-missions. One sub-mission will be given one task each and all the major aspects of the water supply schemes in the villages will be well taken care of.

Shri Dagaji was very unhappy over the allocations to the urban areas. Although it

[Shri S. Buta Singh]

is not my subject, we cannot neglect the population in the urban areas and the requirements of the urbanities are different from the requirements of the ruralites.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : They have one hundred gallons whereas in the villages we have very little of it. Why should there be such a discrimination ?

S BUTA SINGH : I will answer the question. Kindly take your seat. Sir, the requirements of water in a rural area are different from the requirements of water in the urban areas. I will not cite any instance except Shri Daga himself. May I ask him one question ? When he is in the village how much water does he use, and how much water does he use when he is in Delhi ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I use less water here.

S. BUTA SINGH : Therefore, it is obvious. In the villages, the requirements are different. When you have to live in a village, that life-style is different and if you have to live here in Delhi, the life-style is again different. You may not like to have two baths in a day in the village but here in Delhi you would like to have another bath, when you go from here. So, you waste precious water in Delhi and that water could have been used for better pur-

poses by the villagers. At the moment, the per capita rate is 90 litres in urban areas and 40 litres in the rural areas. But under this mission, rural areas also will get more water and the per capita availability will be 70 litres per head per day. Therefore, our effort will be to make as much water available as possible.

There is also a suggestion from Dagaji that brackish and saline water can be used untreated for washing cloths and also for taking bath. But I want to assure him that we want to treat that water. We have the technology in the country. But the only question is that technology has so far not been applied in rural areas. We would like to apply that technology, and see that within the resources available at our disposal, water is made available to the rural population—as clean, as good water as we are having in Delhi or other metropolitan cities; or even better.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned till Monday, the 5th May, 1986.

18.36 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
May 5, 1986/Vaisakha 15,
1908 (Saka)*