

333 St. by member re : certain
informations given by
Minister of Textiles on
behalf of

KARTIKA 28, 1908 (SAKA)

Minister of Water 334
Resources on 6-11-1986
in reply to SQ No. 41

Dhillon should jointly visit the famine-stricken areas to know the actual condition of the people and then do something for them.

Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, repeated the same answer even when I put a supplementary question pointing out that the reply was not based on facts.

16.33 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MEMBER RE :
CERTAIN INFORMATION GIVEN BY
MINISTER OF TEXTILES ON BEHALF
OF MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES
ON 6.11.1986 IN REPLY TO SQ
NO. 41 REGARDING INCHANPALLI
PROJECT

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, With your permission, I make the following statement under Direction 115 :—

Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, deputising for the Minister of Water Resources on 6th November, 1986, while replying to S.Q. No. 41 had categorically stated that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had not sent any reply to a letter of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, dated the 2nd May, 1985 on the subject of holding a ministerial level meeting to sort out the problem of Ichampalli Project and to constitute the task force to assess the area under submersion. I quote what Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha had then stated repeatedly :

“The Chief Minister of Maharashtra wrote as back as 2nd May, 1985, no reply has been received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to this letter. Why cannot he speak to the Chief Minister ?”

“But I could not understand why the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh cannot reply to letter of May, 1985 and write back”.

“But there should be some keenness or desire on the part of the present Chief Minister to take up this matter and reply to the letter”.

As a matter of fact, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had been relentlessly pursuing the matter with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh regarding such a meeting.

The Chief Minister of A. P. replied to the letter of Maharashtra Chief Minister of 2nd May, 1985 referred to in his reply by Hon'ble Minister Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha on 13.7.1985 agreeing to the Inter-State meeting at the ministerial level and suggesting 26.7.1985 for the meeting. A letter was also addressed to Shri Motilal Vora, C.M. of Madhya Pradesh regarding the convenience of Madhya Pradesh.

Sri Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar, C.M. of Maharashtra through his letter of 22.7.1985 conveyed his inability even to depute the Minister for irrigation for the meeting in view of the budget session of the State Legislature, which he said would continue till 7th August, 1985. He agreed for a suitable date for the meeting after this.

Shri Motilal Vora, C.M. of Madhya Pradesh also replied on 22nd July, 1985 stating that since the Vidhan Sabha was in session which would continue upto 14th August, 1985, the proposed ministerial level meeting may be held sometime in September '85.

Once again on 22nd June, 1986 the C.M. of A.P. wrote to Shri Chavan, C.M. of Maharashtra requesting him to indicate a convenient date for the meeting. Simultaneously Sri Motilal Vora was also addressed for his convenience.

On 17th July, 1986 Shri Motilal Vora replied that while the ministerial level meeting should precede a meeting at the level of Chief Ministers, the date of the meeting was left to the C.Ms. of A.P. and Maharashtra.

[Shri C. Madhav Reddy]

The State Minister for Irrigation then wrote to the concerned Minister of Maharashtra on 23.8.1986 proposing holding of the meeting in the second week of September, 1986 at Hyderabad. There has been no reply to this.

On 26th July, 1986 the Maharashtra Chief Minister wrote to C.M. to A.P. in reply to his letter of 22nd June, 1986 that he would be glad to host the proposed meeting sometime in September, 1986 and asking for definite dates from the C.M. of A.P. after knowing the convenience of Madhya Pradesh.

To this, the C.M. of A.P. replied on 1st September, 1986 agreeing to attend the meeting as proposed in Bombay in September '86. Regarding the specific date, a date convenient to the Maharashtra C.M. during the second week of September 1986, or, should this be found inconvenient a date between 22nd and 27th September '86 was proposed.

In reply to this, on 18th September, 1986 C.M. of Maharashtra replied that due to other engagements fixed earlier the dates proposed were not convenient and that "next mutually suitable dates will be fixed shortly in consultation with you". Nothing further is heard from him.

Thus, it is evident that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been vigorously pursuing this matter and the allegations made by Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had not replied to the letter written to him by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra as early as in May, 1985 is incorrect and misleading.

I, therefore, urge Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha to state the correct factual position in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM
NIWAS MIRDHA) : Sir, The factual
position with regard to the matter raised

by Shri C. Madhav Reddy is as under :

The Government of Andhra Pradesh have not sent to the Centre copies of their correspondence with the Chief Ministers of the other States, namely Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, in this regard. In their letter No. 66/Ir. X/86-4 dated 13th May, 1986 in connection with a letter received from Shri J. Chokka Rao, M.P., the Andhra Pradesh Government had stated that "In the meanwhile the State of Maharashtra has suggested for the constitution of a Task Force of the Chief Engineers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in the first instance to convene a meeting to assess the submersion of reserve forest areas under the project and prepare Environmental aspect of the Project to get it cleared. This aspect is receiving the attention of the Government." This indicates that in May 1986 the action on the Maharashtra Chief Minister's letter dated 2nd May, 1985 was resting with the Andhra Pradesh Government.

After receipt of the Parliament Question No. 41 for answer on 6.11.1986, the Ministry had sought detailed material through telex messages for reply to the question from the State Governments concerned namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. No such material was received from any of the State Governments addressed giving details of the *inter-se* correspondence among the States.

It may therefore be stated that the Statement made in the Lok Sabha on 6.11.1986 was based on the material available at the disposal of the Centre. As the Central Government was unaware of the correspondence from the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh and the Andhra Pradesh Government, the statement made by me regarding non-receipt of a reply from the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh was based on lack of knowledge of this correspondence and there is no deliberate intention to mislead the House.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Sir, the reference to Chokka Rao's letter is irrelevant.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : He should apologise to the House.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Sir, he has deliberately misled the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The fact remains that there was correspondence between the Maharashtra Chief Minister and the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. As I had indicated in my statement, several letters were exchanged between the two Chief Ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, you should adopt parliamentary devices as are available but not like this. Now, Shri Kamla Prasad Singh may speak.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The statement of the Minister that no reply was given by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to a letter which was addressed to him in May 1985 is baseless and misleading, and since the Minister has not expressed his regrets, as a protest we are walking out.

(SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI AND SOME OTHER HON. MEMBERS THEN LEFT THE HOUSE).

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SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87—

Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to

support the Supplementary Demands presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has made an attempt to strengthen the economy of the country and the economy is definitely improving. I represent Jaunpur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh which is a backward district. That area faces floods every year. The entire crop and life and property in our district are damaged due to floods, and drought. Regarding control of floods, I would like to submit that a scheme for constructing a pucca dam for the protection of Jaunpur city was sent to the Central Government. Its estimated cost is Rs. 22 crores. This scheme has been cleared by the Flood Control Board, Patna of the Government of India and at present is under the consideration of the Central Planning Commission. Therefore, this scheme should be sanctioned at the earliest.

Sir, after Jaunpur city, the most affected area from the floods in the Gomti river in Jaunpur district is village pilkicha and its neighbourhood in Shahganj tehsil comprising about 60 villages. This area witnessed devastating floods in 1985 and the army had to be called. This apprehension of the people of this area cannot be said to be without basis that due to the construction of a pucca dam for the protection of the Jaunpur city, their area might have to face more floods. Therefore, people of these villages are demanding that dams should also be constructed for their protection so that water table in that area may not rise further due to the construction of dams in the Jaunpur city and they may not suffer more loss in comparison to the loss suffered previously. A survey in this respect should be conducted at the earliest and a scheme for the protection of this area may be formulated and a permanent solution for the flood control may be evolved.

I also want to add that our district is always in the grip of drought. In the Mariyahu tehsil of my constituency Jaunpur, the condition becomes worse during the summer so much so that instead of water mud is found in the wells.