

ment Tax on which all the Chief Ministers have arrived at a consensus, at a meeting called by the Prime Minister, as you are aware. But the question is about bringing in a Bill to give effect to that consensus.

The second point is about freight equalization. Government has taken a decision to phase out freight equalization on the basis of the Pandey Committee's report. What action has been taken on this ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : About Consignment Tax, I had written to the Chief Minister, that the power of exempting any commodity should rest with the Centre. The rationale behind this was that the national economy is one. There may be some basic raw materials available in one State, and going to another State. If each basic raw material available in various States starts getting a different burden, it will affect the overall economy. So, the right of exempting should rest with the Centre, e. g. on raw materials like iron ore, petroleum products, cotton etc. Here, the right of exempting should remain with the Centre.

The reply I have got from some of the Chief Ministers was in the negative; they said; 'No; this matter was earlier discussed and a consensus was arrived at, and a change should not be made.' But we believe that in the overall interest of national economy, this is necessary I think there was a dialogue, there is a dialogue at that point. I would try to pursue the dialogue further,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[*English*]

Irrigation Projects Awaiting Clearance

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up the Half-an-hour Discussion. Shri C. P. Thakur.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna) : I thank the Speaker for allowing a Half-an-hour discussion on such a vital and ever topical subject viz. pending irrigation projects in respect of different States. This topic is so important that some aspects of water resources can be discussed in each Session of Parliament, i. e. every time.

A few months ago, we were discussing flood. It was flood time. At the moment, we are discussing drought. Drought has affected many States. Now, in between, there is the time for agriculture and cultivation. Every farmer wants to have the requisite amount of water for proper agriculture.

I also think the Hon. Member Shri Sriram Murty Bhattam on whose question this discussion arose. The importance of this subject can be gauged by the amount of response it evoked in the Parliament that day. On the same day, there were three questions connected with Water Resource Department. This was the first one; the second was about the Ganga Cauvery Project and the third was about the modernisation of the Sone Canal. Now, the third question could not be taken up because the Hon. Member was not present in the House. But the spirit behind all the questions is how we should supply requisite amount of water to our farmers. In the reply given by the Hon. Minister it was stated that there were 50 projects awaiting clearance from the Central Government though cleared by the Central Water Commission. In the footnote it is mentioned that those projects would be cleared by the Planning Commission after considering among other things various aspects including forest conservation, environment and availability of resources etc. That shows that there is no clear

[Shri C. P. Thakur]

cutguideline, no certainty, no time for it. The earliest proposal is of 1974 and the latest of February 1985. That means that it takes on the average 4 to 6 years for the projects to be cleared by the government. There is always a hue and cry from the different Chief Ministers for early clearance of the projects. In the Seventh Plan Document, there are some indications for the causes of delay of execution of the projects, but not a hint about the delay in clearance. What is the effect of delay? Is it harmless or is it very harmful? The cost escalation in medium and major irrigation projects has been tremendous. According to the recent study, 157 major irrigation projects have, over the years, undergone cost escalation of 562 per cent. Against the original estimate of Rs. 2156 crores, they are now expected to cost over Rs. 14,000 crores when completed and more money will be needed to construct distributary, canals and to carry out other on-farm works. We take a few examples from Bihar. The original cost estimate and the cost at the time of completion of the Gandak Project was Rs. 40.5 crores in 1960 and on completion cost in 1985 was Rs. 415 crores. Kosi Project—Rs. 31 crores in 1966 and in 1986 it was Rs. 212 crores. North Koel—it was Rs. 30 crores in 1977 and would be Rs. 474 crores in 1990. Subarnarekha Project—Rs. 128.99 crores in 1976 and Rs. 1032 crores expected in 1992. Therefore, the Department should now frame some guidelines to minimise this delay. The delay occurs not only at the central level but at the State level also both at the time of formulation of the project all aspects should be considered in advance planning.

Now, there are many modern techniques available which exactly work out the time limit for a project like PERT technique, CPOM technique and they should also be incorporated at the time of formulation of the projects.

Another factor, according to this escalation cost is the resource constraint. There are critics who say that the allocation in irrigation has been inadequate. The spill-over cost on on-going schemes has been

estimated at Rs. 24,600 crores while the total outlay on irrigation during the Seventh Plan period has been fixed at Rs. 14,360 crores. This implies a shortfall of Rs. 10,000 crores. How is the Government planning to meet this resource gap?

There are 50 projects pending from different States. How will these projects be completed? Coming to Bihar, out of these 50 projects, six projects are from Bihar. In this, project concerns my area i. e. modernisation of Sone canal. This is the oldest project in India. Because it has not been repaired during the last 112 years, 50 per cent of the water goes waste. Because of this loss of water, its effect is also telling in this particular area. If you go through the newspapers you will find that this area forms the focal point of agrarian unrest in Bihar. Therefore, I request the Hon Minister to consider this project. Various Chief Ministers have said that this project would be taken up very soon. I asked the question from our Hon. Minister. He assured me that the moment he got the requisite papers from the State Government he would pass this project. But unfortunately, this has not been done. Recently, there was a statement from the Hon. Minister that the Centre is going to consider funding of some projects which are of paramount importance, from the Centre. At the moment, they are giving block money for the irrigation projects to the States and then the States decide about the projects to be given priority. What about other projects from Bihar? North Bihar has got some projects—Gandak project on the western side and Kosi in the east. In between the whole area is devoid of proper irrigation. What about Advara group of projects, Bagmati project. Again in South Bihar there is the Chhotanagpur plateau. There is no proper arrangement for irrigation. You all know that Bihar is lagging behind from most of the States in many things including creation of irrigation potential. Bihar is going to create full potential for irrigation it will require more than Rs. 2650 crores. From where this poor State will get all the resources? The Centre has to consider this aspect.

Now, there is another problem. In many of these medium and major irrigation

projects there is a gap between the potential created and the potential utilised. Now, this also should be incorporated at the time of formation of a project. The irrigation potential in the Seventh Plan is to be enhanced to 80.8 million hectares from 67.9 million hectares in 1984-85. This utilisation of the irrigation potential is to be increased from 60.4 million hectares to 71.3 million hectares. This gap between the potential created and potential utilised is increasing and it is actually the waste of resources. Again regarding utilisation, it should be thought at the time of formulation of the project. How is this big gap between potential and potential utilised to be minimised? Even in this Plan an allocation of Rs. 11,556 crores has been made for creation of additional potential and only Rs. 1671 crores have been allocated for command area development. So, this gap will continue and there will be wastage of resources, blocking of resources. In this poor country of ours, we have to think about this problem and the whole thing should be incorporated at the time of formulation of the project.

Other facilities like one window hypothesis should be provided. Now there is delay at the State level. At the State level, the project has to be initiated by the department concerned. Then it will go to the forest department, it will go to Revenue Department, it will go to the Rehabilitation Department, it will go to the Planning Department, then it will go to the Finance, and so on and so forth. So, there also it takes lot of time. And I think it has to go through the same routes here in the Central Government also. So, the Government should think that there should be one window treatment of these projects. That will minimise lot of time, both in formulation and in execution of the projects.

One thing I know that at the State level if somebody is posted in the Planning department, he thinks that he has been shunted. Because of that we are not getting good and thoroughly worked out projects from the States. That sometimes is the complaint of the Minister in the House about the projects from different States.

Then, there are other problems also which are associated with these medium and major irrigation projects and they all concern the people, the Government. Those problems are the problem of waterlogging that we are facing in Kosi area, the problem, of siltation which also we are facing there the problems of salinity, alkalinity, rehabilitation, etc. So, all these should be fully thought of at the time of formulation of the project. Waterlogging and salinity have started causing problems in different States like Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. One of the studies by World Bank says that water tables are rising at rates ranging from 0.2 metre to 1.7 metre per year in an area of about three million hectares. So, if we are going in for these major projects, these disadvantages should also be considered and there remedy thought out at the time of formulation of the project.

Another factor is the proper training of the staff concerned with the irrigation projects. Due to the lack of proper training, the projects are neither formulated nor executed on time. So, there should be proper training of the staff concerned with the irrigation projects in the Department of Irrigation.

I have already stated that there is the problem of floods and there is the problem of droughts. As regards the problem of flood, our State is perennially visited by floods but so far no adequate arrangement has been made for the prevention of floods. There is the office of the Ganga Control Commission in Patna and they say that even they are not given due importance. If the posts are vacant, they remain vacant for years and most of the staff is not given proper accommodation facilities also. So, possibly it requires more attention by the Government. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister that attempts should be made to see that all projects are cleared in a proper time frame, proper guidelines should be made by the Centre and these should be issued to all the States, and every year there should be a review. A priority list should be made so that from each State each project is taken up and completed in a particular time. So, I think this is high time that such a list was made and this consideration should be given regarding clearance of the projects from different States. Thank you very much.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Sir, a few days ago I have extensively dealt with the points raised by the Hon. Member when he initiated the discussion, specially regarding the delay in the clearance of the projects. I thought I could listen to him extensively and in detail about the delay, the causes, their effects and solutions regarding the clearance of the projects. But the Hon. Member has chosen the entire gamut of water resources development right from clearance, delays, cost escalation of on-going projects, central assistance, potentials, and its utilisation and the gap, the reduction of the gap, single window clearance of profits system, water-logging, salinity and what not, everything.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He was allowed to speak.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : To this I don't think I will be able to do justice within a few minutes which I am given to answer to the Half-an-Hour discussion.

Perhaps the Hon. Member is concerned about, when he referred to Bihar, specially the Sone canal modernisation project. Perhaps that is the interest by which the Hon. Member is prompted to raise it.

Sir, it is true that this Canal is more than a century old and it has given tremendous service to Bihar and specially the drought-prone area of Bihar when it was built and commissioned in the year 1974 and for more than 100 years the system has served Bihar more than its capacity. But unfortunately what has happened? It could give service to Bihar, but it did not take service from Bihar. It was not properly maintained. Maintenance was entirely neglected and today the system needs modernisation. I can say that it is the accumulated lag in the maintenance for the last several 100 years that has caused the Government of Bihar to come with the project of modernisation of the canal itself. The Government of Bihar is justified in proposing the modernisation scheme I don't say it is not, and the Government of India is sympathetically considering the modernisation scheme. As a matter of fact, phase I of this

scheme is being considered for World Bank assistance. Sir, the State Government had submitted the proposal for modernisation in 1983 costing about Rs. 898.88 crores and serving an area of 9,06 lakh hectares to be implemented in three phases. The project report was examined and after compliance with the remarks of CVC, the Report was updated to Rs. 1194.72 crores and the project was accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee on 24.9.84. They made certain observations and one of the observations is : 'It was desired by the Planning Commission that in the first instance the work of modernisation be taken up in pilot areas of 30,000 hectares, together with improvement of the system considered necessary for this pilot project'. Sir, it is relevant, if I can give certain information to the Hon. House. They are very relevant because they indicate why a particular project is being held up and it is being delayed. The modified estimate of Phase-I costing Rs. 247 crores with implementation during 1985-90 was submitted by the State in February, 1985. This estimate was recommended to the Planning Commission for clearance within two months. This is still pending with the Planning Commission and the reason is, the Government of Bihar have provided only Rs. 2 crores for a project estimated at Rs. 247 crores. But the Government of Bihar and the Chief Minister of the State who had a discussion with me have promised to provide more funds and we are still considering to accept the proposal of the Government of Bihar and see that this important modernisation scheme comes into effect. But it all depends upon provision of enough funds.

SHRI C.P. THAKUR : There was a statement in the Press that you are going to finance some projects of importance from the Central funds.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I don't think I have made any categorical statement of this type that the Centre is going to finance. It is because my friends opposite are demanding that certain very important projects in their State should be taken up by the Centre and they should be funded by the Centre as national projects. We do not have such a scheme of funding by the Centre and implementing the State projects as national

projects. I do not want to go into the merits and demerits of the contention of the Hon. Member that such important projects in the country should be financed by the Government as national projects. But today the position is that there does not exist such a scheme or programme and the Planning Commission has not accepted such a proposal earlier. Though the State Governments—when the Chief Ministers have demanded—are again in favour of such a scheme, but there are lot of other issues. They are, when we are considering for the establishment of certain river board commissions, during the discussion of the policy formulation for the water resource development, certain Chief Ministers have very strongly contended that the Centre should not make inroads into the sovereign authority of the State as far as the water development is concerned. Time is very short and I do not want to go into the legal provisions and the Constitutional aspects of water.

As far as Bihar is concerned, I think, my friend is more interested in Sone canal modernisation project. I have given enough reasons. Enough funds are to be provided by the State Government. Sooner the State Government does it, the better it will be for the State Government and sooner the project would be cleared by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Rath. You can put only one question, not lengthy speech.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The actual discussion is diverted already by the first speaker.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day the Hon. Minister has replied during the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Department of Water Resources—and now also the Minister has said that irrigation is the responsibility of the State Government. But I want a clarification from the Hon. Minister that leave apart this lift irrigation or minor irrigation. As far as the medium and major irrigations are concerned, it is only Central Government that gives clearance. Not only that, these projects are constructed on the

World Bank finance. So, is it not the duty of the Central Government also to see that these projects are completed in time after having given the clearance? What I mean to say is that when there is a drought, the Central Government has to give hundreds of crores of rupees to a State. These irrigation projects in are meant to eradicate the drought, to some extent. So, it is the primary duty of the Central Government, having given clearance to States and also having arranged finance from the World Bank, to see that the construction of the projects is completed in time. (*Interruptions*). With your permission, I would invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to Harabhanga project in my Constituency of Orissa which was estimated at about Rs. 10 crores and which was to be completed in the year, 1985. But now its cost has gone up to Rs. 43 crores. If real steps are taken earnestly, it may be completed in 1990. From this, you can visualise at whose cost will it be the communication gap between the Central Government and the State Government on matters of completion of the irrigation projects is responsible for rise in cost.

AN HON. MEMBER: Public's cost.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Not only at the cost of public but also at the cost of the agriculturist and the Central Government which they must be conscious of it because if there is a drought, the Central Government has to pay a hundred crores of rupees to the States.

So also, I want to know from the Hon. Minister how this communication gap between the Centre and the State could be closed to implement the project in time and how the irrigation projects Harbhanga in Ganjam district of Orissa and Bhagua Stage II would be completed within the time fixed.

Now this Department deals with not only irrigation but water resources of India. All the more, the responsibility of this Department has enhanced and, therefore, this Department should see that all the water resources of the whole of India should be assessed, then linked up, in such a manner so that the water in all the rivers in India instead of flowing to the ocean should be utilised for irrigation.

[Shri Somnath Rath]

Will the Hon. Minister kindly reply whether there is any proposal to have a Committee to assess the water sources of India and how best that can be utilised for irrigation in having a network of these resources connecting one river with another river, from one State to another State and within State from one basin to another so that even the desert can be turned to green fields?

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now the Hon. Minister has pointed out that the Chief Ministers insist on the Centre that it should not interfere in the matters of State administration as they are supreme and sovereign in their respective States. They insist that they should not be told as to what they should do and what they should not do. It is very interesting. The Centre should give them funds and also allow them to squander away the money as they wish. "*Male Muft Dile Beraham*" The irrigation projects in Bihar are virtually gold mines. Every engineer yearns to be posted there. The same is true of every contractor. Every Minister wants to be in charge of that Department. There is a saying which I have often repeated here "*Loot divided by four*". The funds for irrigation projects are divided amongst four classes—the engineer, the contractor, the bureaucrats and the local politicians—thereby escalating the cost of the project. The entire amount goes to their pockets. Each and every junior Engineer becomes a "*Lakhpati*" within two years and deposits the entire amount in Nepalese banks. My area is adjacent to Nepal and that is why most of them deposit their extra income in these banks while the Government is blissfully ignorant about their income. The Government may make frantic efforts, but it can do little in this regard. We provide funds to the States with great difficulty and once they get it, they become cheeky enough to say that the Centre cannot interfere in their matters. They say that Centre's paramount duty is to provide funds; and theirs is to spend it. I would like to submit that it is a strange situation and it cannot be tolerated any longer. The people still have faith in the Central Government and therefore, I urge,

that if the Centre provides funds it should also do monitoring in this regard. We were able to get funds sanctioned for the Western Kosi Canal after a long struggle. Though the work on this canal has been completed on the Nepal side, but in my constituency it is progressing at snails' pace. I have repeatedly requested the Hon. Minister in this connection, but his stock reply is that there is some land dispute and the people are not ready to part with their land. What is this? The Centre says that the Bihar Government does not act in the matter. But why is the State Government constrained to do so? What are the compulsions that force the people of the area not to part with their land even though they are facing grave hardship in the absence of irrigation facilities? Crores of rupees that have been invested in this project is going down the drain. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the time by which the work on Western Kosi Canal on the Indian side will be completed? Secondly, I would like to ask him the time by which the Bagmati project will be completed? Lastly, what does the Hon. Minister propose to do regarding the problem of silting in Kosi Canal which is creating a havoc in the area and the time by which this problem will be solved?

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) :
The *Indian Express* of 20th May 1985 says :

"The estimated cost of 156 major irrigation projects spread over various states amounting to Rs. 2125 crores is likely to go up to Rs. 14,061 crores, that is, by 562 per cent, when completed."

Now, the list that has been given here is not a complete list. The list has given only 50 projects. This is not a complete list. So many schemes were sent to the Centre by the Rajasthan Government. I want to know how many times you have returned them. They were approved by the State Government and sent to you. Will you please tell me? Why don't your Departments find the mistakes at one go and ask them to rectify? And finally why not they themselves go to the States, sit with them and talk to them and make the

schemes final? What has happened to the Singhor project? Since 1977 it is pending with you. How many times have you been waiting for the reply? When did you send your queries? Because you say every time that the answer is not complete.

Now you talk of major projects in Assam and Bihar. My friend was giving the date of receipt. It was in 1978. How many times have you asked for 'full information'? We want a detailed reply because every time you say that the reply has not come. Will you be in a position to give us in respect of each project how many times the Central Water Authority reminded them and they have not complied with. Because your officers generally do not care for us. What they do is, they just find out one defect and send it back saying, "We want this data". Again they ask us to send another data. After, one and a half years, they ask for some other data. Your Department takes at least seven years or eight years or nine years to complete examination of a scheme. Kindly find out from your Department and tell us on the floor of the House how many times they sent their report back and on what grounds. Because we find from the data submitted by the Hon. Minister that in the year 1977 the schemes were completed and they were sent. After eight years they say that the reply is not complete. What is that reply? How many times have you sent your queries? At one time you find out one fault. At another time another fault. When a new engineer comes to your Department, on some technical ground he does not want to dispose of. If you think that the resources are not enough, then please write down: "The resources are not enough; we cannot sanction".

In the case of the Rajasthan Canal, Rs. 60 were to be spent. But what has happened? It has gone up to Rs. 1,000 crores. This was to be completed in 1960, and it has not been completed even in 1985. Who is accountable for all this? The Chairman, Advisory Board on Energy, has accepted that 156 major irrigation projects in India have over the years undergone a cost escalation of 562 per cent; it has been admitted, "Against the original estimate of Rs. 2,156 crores, they are now expected to cost Rs. 14,000 crores"; "According to a study, it would take 175 years in

the case of Sarda Sahayak to reach its full potential". They say, 175 years. What is the average age of a man? They also say: "Sreeram Sagar would take 140 years; some would take 68 years; KOSI would take 62 years"...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your question is very clear: why are they sending each time different queries; why can't they raise all the queries at one time?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What is the procedure you have laid down to streamline the process of sanction? Have you ever pulled up your officers and put any of them under suspension? Please let us know whether you suspended any officer for negligence, for not attending to the file. Please let us know the position for four years. And what is the procedure you have laid down to streamline the whole thing?

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Sir, from the reply given by the Hon. Minister and the opinions expressed by the Hon. Members you might have notice that there is price escalation due to non-completion of projects in schedule time. So I want to know from the Hon. Minister will he kindly use his good offices to insist the State Governments which is the agency to execute the projects to complete the project within the specified time? If so, whether he will call a meeting of all the Chief Ministers and State Irrigation Ministers to know their views on aspects like land acquisition, clearance from forests, rehabilitation and also Environment Department. This Department is not giving clearance. For these aspects will he call the meeting of the Chief Ministers and State Irrigation Ministers to see that the projects are completed on schedule time?

Secondly the ground water survey was done two-three decades back. Today even the Hon. Members have expressed the view that water level is going low for which even the drinking water is not available. As the medium and big irrigation projects are taking long time and the result is not being derived as per expectation so in many States

[Shri Chintarani Jena]

they are trying to have lift irrigation projects, namely, lift irrigation tubewells. The Government is also giving subsidy to the farmers for having dug wells and shallow tubewells to put in their land to irrigate their fields. In these case what we feel water is going down by which the result is not coming. In that case will the Minister have a re-survey of the entire country about the ground water potentiality ?

Thirdly on account of water logging we are losing millions of tonnes of cereals and foodgrains every year. Therefore, like Central Water Commission will the Hon. Minister think to have a separate directorate or such type of commission for survey and prepare the scheme to avert this water logging? If so, what is the programme before the Hon. Minister ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir the members wanted to know why not the Centre take the responsibility of water resources developmental management and spend for the same. While Centre is providing funds for the implementation of the projects why should centre be a silent spectator of the way the things are going in the States ? If anybody is doing wrong, whether the Centre or in the State, They say that the Centre should take action.

Now, let me explain the delay part. What are the factors for considerable delay in the clearance of the project? There is also delay in the implementation of the project. Then the Hon. Members have also expressed that they are concerned for the cost escalation.

SHRI MOOLCHAND DAGA : The cost escalation was 62 per cent.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : One of the Hon. Members has expressed that when the Government is going to give crores of rupees for drought relief, why not fund these projects? Sir, regarding delay, I should say that there are many factors in which I don't want to go into details. But I would summarise the factors for delay. They are ;

- (1) Adequate investigations on topographic, hydrological geological and other aspects are not done,
- (2) Assessment of the dependable yield, design flood and siltation are not done properly.
- (3) Cost estimates are not prepared to the required standards.
- (4) The projects are not planned for optimum utilisation of water for maximum benefits of the regions. The effect of the projects on other projects existing in the basin and further stages of development is not studied.
- (5) Inter-State aspects are not adequately brought out in the reports.
- (6) As per the procedure laid down by the Planning Commission, the concurrence of the Revenue, Finance and Agriculture Department of the State is required which is not complied with.
- (7) Inadequate data in the project reports causes delay in the clearance of the projects by environment Department and Department of Forest.

Sir, at the moment, the position of the projects as on 31.3.1986 is like this. Projects under examination in Central Water Commission are :

Major Projects...23

Medium Projects...28

Total : 51

Projects with State Governments for replies to comments of C. W. C. are :

Major Projects...107

Medium Projects...50

Total : 157

Projects with State Governments for replies to the observation of T. A. C. are ;

Major Projects...19

Medium Projects...7

Total : 26

Therefore, when the projects are scrutinised by the Technical Advisory Committee, they are sent to them wherein other points are also considered along with the technical aspects and the Technical Advisory committee makes certain observations and those observations are sent back to the States for clarifications. Now, if you total the number of projects both Major and Medium which are pending with the State Governments, the total work out to 183, that is, 157 plus 26 projects. They are under the compliance by the State Governments on the observations made by the Central Water Commission or by the Technical Advisory Committee.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Let us know how many times you have sent to the State Governments for replies and comments, What are the reasons given for this delay ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There may be so many reasons.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : We want to know how many years the Central Government takes for approving a particular scheme. How many times have they to remind the State Governments? If you consider various projects, you will find they have taken eight to ten years for approving various projects. I request the Hon. Minister to give specific replies.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The delay may be on both the sides. When the Central Government asks for same information, the State Governments may take a long time. You cannot put the blame on the Centre alone...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Then, both the parties have to be blamed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister finish. Do not interrupt.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I do not agree with the observations made by the Hon. Member.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You may not agree; I do not mind.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : His imagination goes in the direction in which at least I cannot go. He has asked, how much time the Centre takes in clearing a project. It depends on how much time the State concerned takes for clarifying the various points. The process of clearing the projects would certainly be hastened if the States give complete details.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You take eight years and they also take along time..... *(Interruptions)*

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish. He is answering your questions.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can only make statements. I cannot make any Member to understand. The horse can be taken to the water, but you cannot make it to drink. What can I do? I am stating the facts I am saying that these are the projects lying with the States and still he wants to know how much time I require to clear the projects.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : They are always pending with you. You are trying to evade. As our building is round similarly you are speaking in a round about manner..... *(Interruptions)*... You should at least reply to Dagaji. Why do you get provoked?..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please give me specific instance, and then expect a reply. Do not make wild allegations against the officers. You give me concrete examples and I will look into them. *(Interruptions)*... It does not behave well of the Members of Parliament to make wild allegations against the officers, who work day and night for these projects. If there is any specific instance, please give it to me. Without specific instances, it is mere waste of time... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you are having any specific instance in view, why can't you write to the Minister and get the information. Do not generalise.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Shankaranandji, if you can get provoked we can also get provoked. Why do you get provoked ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Why shouldn't I ?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : It is unbecoming of a Minister. Kindly reply to his question.

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This is half-an-hour discussion and cannot go on and on. I have made my statement. If the Hon. Members are interested, let them ask their respective States as to what particular projects are pending with the CWC and for how long. If there is undue delay, it is certainly a matter of concern for me and I am answerable to the House. but the Hon. Members should not make wild allegations against the honest officers. That will not lead us anywhere... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why can't you get clarifications from the States ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You tell us where the States are at fault.

(Interruptions)

Excuse me Sir. I say Sir... (Interruptions). Kindly bear with me for half a second. The Minister has already accepted that it was received in 1972.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Coming to Rajasthan....

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Singur project is pending since 1977.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Ask if there is anything more.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : I have been asked not to speak. I shall speak after two days.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Who has asked you not to speak today.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : You know it very well.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I do not understand. Do you want me to listen ? You please let me know and I am willing to answer your question. If you are really interested, ask the question. I do not shirk my responsibility to answer the question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please finish your reply.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Regarding the major schemes of Rajasthan as on 31 March 1986 only three major projects are lying with the Central Water Commission. Only three major projects from Rajasthan. The Central Water Commission sent back their observations to the State on a major project, The Technical Advisory Committee has also made some observations and sent to the State. It is only one major project.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA (Tonk) : Kindly tell us their names as well,

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I need a separate question for that. You cannot expect me to answer all these questions within a limited time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : This is the answer... (Interruptions).

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have given the answer. I do not think that the House is interested in knowing all the details.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : This Half-an-Hour Discussion was raised about Question No. 546. The answer is with us. We have got the answer and we can place it on the Table of the House. Your Honour can see how many years have passed. This is there.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : If he is interested in Rajasthan he should listen. If he is not interested, perhaps he is interested only in shouting.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I have put a specific question about the Harbhanga and Bhagma Projects in Orissa. Kindly reply about it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Regarding the individual, particular projects, there are so many. I cannot give them by name. If the Hon. Member is interested in specific information on any project let him put the question and I will answer it.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Sir, originally the estimated cost was Rs. 10 crores and it was to be finished by 1985. It could not be finished and now the cost has gone upto Rs. 43 crores and it would be finished only by 1990. Will the Minister take the necessary steps to see that the project is completed? This is my specific question.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, projects are formulated, funded and implemented by the States. I do not implement these projects. It is for the State Governments to fund and implement them. If they have no funds, how can they implement?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I beg to differ with the Hon. Minister on this point. I have asked a specific question...

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I cannot help you, if you differ?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : It is not the question of helping me. We should not side-track the issue and put everything on the head of the State Government. As has been stated, major and medium projects are approved by the Central Government. These are assisted by the World Bank and money has been advanced. If it is not completed within the stipulated period, costs will escalate and the people will not be benefited. If there is a drought, the Central Government has to pay very heavily. Hence it is the duty of the Central Government to look into the matter. They cannot side-track the issue.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I really pity the situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please tell him whether there is any delay on the part of the Government. They have given the clearance. Implementation is with the State Government. What can he do?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The projects are not implemented because of the constraint of resources.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : The World Bank has given money. That is not utilized.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you say that it has been delayed by the Centre?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Yes. The World Bank has granted the amount. It has been given. But it could not be spent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Who has not spent? Is it the State or the Centre?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I am explaining, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time is over.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Because the infrastructure is not there, it could not be spent by the State.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : If the Hon. Members are really, genuinely interested in the problem, they should understand the problem. I am trying to help the respective States. If they do not understand, let me try to make myself clear, so that they can understand. I can give them information. But for every service, the Centre is not responsible for implementation. If they say that the Centre should do things, I do not understand in what way I can satisfy the Members.

So, this is the position of Rajasthan.

The projects with the Planning Commission for approval are—I am speaking only about the delay part of it—8 major projects and 22 medium projects. They are lying with the Planning Commission for approval. This is the situation. If you say there has been a delay, I do not know it the States or the Hon. Members may know. Under certain circumstantial pressures on the State Governments, they include certain projects, even with a token money provision in the Plan; and they include them—whether the project is approved or is not approved, is not their concern. When the Projects come for approval, naturally the three fundamental things are : money, matter and water. They are not available. If they are not available, how can any project be cleared ?

These are the things. If the Hon. Members really are interested in certain projects, let them write to me and seek clarification on specific projects, by putting specific questions on specific projects. I will reply on the floor of the House, try to satisfy them. Let us find out a way as to how we can reduce the period of delay in project implementation.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY (Adilabad): May I ask for a clarification ?

The Minister has pointed out that there are several reasons for the delay, e.g. because the State Governments are not sending information. It has not been said that it is because of lack of any scheme on the part of the State Governments for rehabilitating the displaced persons. You have not mentioned that now, even though that was being mentioned some time ago, viz. that because of the absence of the scheme, the Centre could not sanction the Yeleru project. But there may be some communication gap between the State Governments and the Central Government. We found when we enquired that the State Government has got a definite scheme; and the Andhra Pradesh Government has implemented several such projects, where thousands of people have been rehabilitated. Then, how is it that the impression has been gained here in the Centre that the Andhra Pradesh Government is not caring for the displaced persons of the Yeleru project ? We are not able to understand this.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : If it is with reference only to the Yeleru project... (*Interruptions*) rehabilitation does from a part of the project.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : But we are doing that.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : But it is also true that certain projects which are not cleared, are still being implemented by the State Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned.

19.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
April 29, 1986/Vaisakha 9,
1908 (Saka).*