

Connected with this is the question of drought. It is true that Bihar has been afflicted by severe drought. In order to alleviate the sufferings caused by drought, the allocation that has been made for Bihar during the year, under the normal food for work programme is 1,96,000 tonnes of foodgrains and, in addition we have also provided 1,25,000 tonnes for the special food for work programme. In fact, there cannot be any complaint that adequate steps have not been taken to alleviate the sufferings caused by drought. The overall allocation that the Government of India has made for drought relief is in addition to the normal food for work programme. We have allocated nearly another 2 lakh tonnes. In addition to 1,96,000 tonnes, we have provided another 1,25,000 tonnes for Bihar. This should take care of the situation.

Further, the Central Government have provided Rs. 10 crores as cash advance on Plan side. It is possible, in a few areas the food may not have reached. One cannot guarantee that, even though an allocation has been made, it will reach every place uniformly. If there are any such instances, we will have to take note of that and have it rectified. But it cannot be a criticism that the whole food for work programme is not adequate or it has not been properly implemented.

Then, my hon. friend, Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha also mentioned about the supply of diesel and kerosene. In January, 1980, actually 28,000 M.T. of diesel and 13,900 M.T. of kerosene have been allotted. In February, it is 26,000 M.T. of diesel and 16,000 M.T. of kerosene.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : The requirement of Bihar is 70,000 M.T.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : All over the country there is a shortage. Since Barauni is not working and since the major part of our refinery product is not available all over the country there is a shortage. The available material is really distributed amongst the various states in proportion to their needs. Therefore, considering the over-all shortage in the country, I would like to mention to my friend that Bihar has been treated fairly, and substantial quantities have been allocated to the Bihar state. I quite agree with him that we have not been able to meet all the demands but this is true not only of Bihar but every other state. We have not been able to meet all the needs of the states for several reasons, the most important one being the shut-down of the Assam Refinery and the Barauni Refinery.

Then, Smt. Krishna Sahi made two suggestions. One is that we should write off the debt due from Bihar. I would like to remind the Hon. Member that the debt burden of all the states was really looked into by the Seventh Finance Commission, and the seventh Finance Commission made recommendations for several States, for relief from debt. Bihar is one of the larger beneficiaries in this regard. But if you say that every year we should go on writing off the debt, it would be impossible for any Government to function.

She also mentioned about taking up, as a Central scheme, the Ganga Basin Works. I want to assure the Hon. Member that whatever funds are required for this scheme will be provided. In a planned economy it does not matter whether it is taken up by the Centre or the state. But I want to assure the Hon. Member that the requisite funds for this scheme, which is considered to be very important to both Bihar and the country, will be provided.

राम बिलास पातञ्जल : यह काम दस साल से चल रहा है।

AN HON. MEMBER: For ten years it is going on, he says.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, it is a big scheme and it takes a long time. If we want to write a book, we can write a book about a scheme in two days. If we want to draw a picture, it may take only two hours but to execute a scheme it takes years.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you are in jail, the book can be completed in a shorter time!

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, I have been there and I know : it is nothing new to me.

Now, Shri C. P. Verma talked about drought relief. As mentioned earlier, we have made allocations for this purpose and I would also like to assure him that if more food-grains are required for Bihar, it will be forthcoming because we do not want to stint the supply of food for any part of the country where there is drought and where the need is urgent. Fortunately, we have a sufficient buffer-stock of food and there is no reason why we should be very parsimonious in this regard.

Two other Members talked about the backwardness of Bihar, and I have dealt with it. The backwardness cannot be removed overnight. It can be done only over a period, and planned economy is one of the instruments by which we can remove the backwardness. That is how, in the Plan, we are continuing to allocate larger and larger funds for the very backward states.

[SHRI R. VENKATAREMAF]

There was a criticism that, for water supply, only Rs. 18 crores have been allocated. But if it is compared with the previous year's allocation, which is Rs. 13 crores, it is nearly 50% more. So, you will find that the provision has been very generous.

Lastly, I would like to say that the interim budget which has been presented here is not the finally shaped budget, except that so far as the Plan is concerned, we have made adequate provision, pending final settlement of the figures.

So far as the other aspects are concerned, the regular budget will come with adequate provisions for them and will also make necessary appropriations.

I request that the House may accept the interim budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put all the Cut Motions moved to the Demands for Grants on Account in respect of Bihar for 1980-81 to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of his Cut Motions may be put separately.

Cut Motion nos. 9 to 20 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account in respect of Bihar to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1981, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1, 3 to 8, and 10 to 28."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Supplementary Demands. I shall now put all the Cut Motions moved to the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Bihar for 1979-80 to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of his Cut Motions may be put separately.

Cut Motions nos. 1 to 23 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Bihar for 1979-80 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1980, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demands Nos. 1, 3 to 6, 10 to 26 and 28."

The motion was adopted.

15.52 hrs.

BIHAR APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1980*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 1980-81.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 1980-81."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I introduce† the Bill.

I beg to move†:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 1980-81, be taken into consideration."

*Published in Gazette of India Extra-ordinary Part II Section 2, dated 15-3-80.

†Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 198-81 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the Clauses.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN; be question is:

"That the Bill the passed."

The motion was adopted.

1555 hrs.

BIHAR APPROPRIATION BILL, 1980*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of the financial year 1979-80.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of the financial year 1979-80."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I introduce the Bill.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of the financial year 1979-80; be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of the financial year 1979-80, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill. Clause 1, the enacting formula and the title were added to the Bill.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in Gazette of India Extra-ordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 15-3-80.

†Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.