

17.32 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

TARGET OF IRRIGATION POTENTIAL
DURING SIXTH PLAN

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

MR. B. V. DESAI : Underline the word '*Half-an-Hour*'.

SHRI B. V. DESAI (Raichur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a discussion on the points arising out of the reply given on 1st August, 1983, to my Unstarred Question No. 1367 regarding the target of irrigation potential during the Sixth Plan.

After our independence, as soon as we started our Five-Year Plans, in all respects we used to have our own targets and try to achieve them. The same thing has been happening with regard to irrigation also. During the previous Five-Year Plans we had certain targets so far as irrigation was concerned and achievements were also there.

In the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the target of irrigation potential was about 13.7 million hectares. We have already completed three years of our Plan period and our achievement in creating the potential has been only 6.824 million hectares. Only two years are left out for the Sixth Plan to be completed. For 1983-84, that is, for this year, the Irrigation Ministry has kept another 2.370 million hectares as the target, and if we take the fifth year target also to be of the same order, then we will be left with a shortfall of about two million hectares. I just wanted to ask in my question as to what were the reasons for it. The hon. Minister was pleased to state that financial constraint was responsible. Then, in reply to my two points, he has replied—I quote :

“It has since been decided to make available additional Central Assistance of Rs. 1650 crores for the two-year period of 1983-84 and 1984-85. It has further been decided to allow the States 20% step-up in market borrowings programme in 1983-84, as compared to that in 1982-83, but the sectoral break-up of this additional Central assistance will

have to be worked out by the State Governments.”

In view of this statement, I would like to put one important question to the hon. Minister : with this additional allotment of Rs. 1650 crores, and the allowing of 20% more borrowings for the States, is he going to achieve the target for the entire 6th five-year plan, which Government of India has fixed ? That is the most important question, as far as I am concerned, because he has not replied to it in the earlier statement.

Secondly, regarding the creation of targets, there are so many other constraints, apart from finance. Our Government has declared this sector as a priority sector. Even then, what we find in some of our States is that cement is not available, coal is not available and so much of railway transport bottleneck is there for carrying the inputs for irrigation potential. For example, cement allotment, which was expected to be about 6 million tonnes every year, has been cut to 3.75 million tonnes.

I do not know if these figures are correct ; I am subject to correction by the hon. Minister. Being an important and priority sector, why is there this cut of cement which is most essential for creating the irrigation potential, i.e. for building dams ? In fact, even the 6 million tonnes of cement were not sufficient as far as the targeted figure is concerned. So, why fix the target and say it is a top priority sector ? This is the basic industry of our country, and more than 70% of our people are residing in villages. Their avocation in farming, and our entire economy is based on agriculture. So, if we create the potential and utilize it properly so that it results in excess production, then our economy will be definitely strengthened. Knowing this well, how is it that cement or any other inputs required by the Irrigation Department are not made available ? Is it because the Department or the Ministry is not particular about asking for this, or is there a shortage of cement ? For so many other things we are importing cement. Why not for this priority sector, if there is shortage ? If they have imported, have they not indented for it ? Because of cement shortage and other shortages, the irrigation potential is lagging behind.

Secondly, the creation of potential is not enough, in itself. The potential is created for the basic purpose of its utilization. In utilization also, we lag behind. There also we do fix the target in every five-year plan ; and this year also we have fixed it. I do not want to quote all these things. Utilization for the 6th Plan was fixed at approximately 14 million hectares ; and for the first three years, we have completed only 6.22 million tonnes. For the third year, just like capacity creation, it has been fixed. We will be lagging behind by about 6.40 million tonnes as on date. This is about utilization.

We do create potential ; and if we do not utilize it, where is the fun in creating it ? We lag behind in creation of potential itself ; and then whatever potential we create, we do not use because of so many reasons which are given, but which can be rectified. For example, regarding field channels, in my State of Karnataka, the field channel is the responsibility of the State Government, and not of the cultivator ; so is it in Andhra Pradesh. So is in Maharashtra. Why not in all other States ? 50 per cent of the cost of the feed-channel has to be borne by the cultivator. Is it ever possible ? To start with, when he utilises irrigation potential, he will be put into great stresses and strains. That is how the Irrigation Department or the Irrigation Ministry of the Central Government has to impress upon the State Governments and come to their aid so that the cultivator is not handicapped. So far as feed channel is concerned, probably the Central Government is also thinking in terms of generalising this funding of this water course construction. For that, they are devising some ways and means. Three States have already gone forward in this regard have constructed feed channels there by they are trying to utilize whatever channel is created.

Not only these feed channels, in utilization there are certain other aspects where water management is also one of them. For water management, every irrigation channel or main canal or feed channel, distributory, sub-distributory, or each water course has got its own. So, if excess utilization of water is being done in the earlier stages,

naturally the tail-end people will suffer. So, the judicious management of water course is also essential. In this regard, the Central Government, I feel, should take steps and formulate a certain formula so that the State Governments' Irrigation Departments can follow it. Apart from the excess utilization of water in the earlier stages and tail-enders being suffering, another aspect of utilization which lags behind is salinity. Specially this problem is very acute where the soil is black. Immediately within three years or six years, or five years, the salinity comes up and the land becomes useless, although potential is created, utilization also is being made because of drain and other aspects, and drainage, etc. has not been properly done, again we do not produce, the end is to have the optimum production out of the irrigation potential which we have created. That is our aim. If all these aspects are not taken into consideration, it is so difficult to produce more from the potential which you have created and the utilization which you have made. So, in so many places, the salinity question also arises. Our final aim should be the maximum utilization of irrigation potential and ensure optimum productivity. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is thinking towards this end so that the drainage, wherever irrigation potential is utilized, is being done.

These were some of the points which were not answered in the reply given by him, although whatever questions were asked, he had tried to give the complete reply. There were no supplementaries and all that. On this basis, one more point I would like to stress. I would like to get some answer in this connection. The irrigation potential, by the turn of the century, we are aiming is at about 113 million hectares ; and as on today, we are having only 63 or 65 million hectares. Another 50 million hectares, we are short of. With this target and utilization, can we achieve that ? I would like to know from the hon. Minister ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : The hon. member, Shri B.V. Desai, has very ably summed up in a way the total situation, so far as irrigation is concerned and the problem that arises in

(Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha)

this context. The question was of a limited nature and we did try to give all the answer that the hon. member wanted. But now he has tried to amplify some of the things that he wanted to elicit from the government I will try to answer as best as I can. It is true that there would be a shortfall in our achievement of irrigation target at the end of the Sixth Plan. The Sixth Plan target is 13.74 million hectares and the likely achievement is going to be 11.50 million hectares. Thus there will be shortfall of 2.25 million hectares. As I answered in the question, the main constraint is that of resources. I mentioned the figure of Rs. 1650 crores as additional central assistance for two years i.e. 1983-84 and 1984-85, plus 20 per cent step-up in market borrowings for the programme in 1983-84 as compared to last year. I want to clarify that this is not the figure which would be made available for irrigation. This is the total additionality that the Government has made available to the States in the State sector. We do hope that the States would be able to use as much of these additional resources that have been made available to them to reach the target and expedite irrigation programmes, about whose importance the hon. Member very rightly stressed. It is a very important sector of our development and in a way, all future development in agriculture and in other areas can only come from irrigation and development of agriculture, which depends on provision of water. I cannot say that the targets would be reached with these additional funds because it all depends how much priority the State Government would give in allocating these additional resources so far as irrigation development is concerned.

Another constraint is that the inputs sometimes are not available, which hinders developments and construction of irrigation works. It is true that some time back, that was the situation and we were passing through a great scarcity, which, unfortunately, we are not still able to get over. But it is not true that the cement allocation has been reduced from six million tonnes, as stated by the hon. Member, to five million tonnes. But the problem is that even the allocations are not made available by the cement factories because of many other things. In the last year or two there have been vari-

ous serious cuts in electricity for cement works and this hampered the supply of cement for irrigation works to the extent we wanted. We in the Ministry of Irrigation have set up an inter-Ministerial group. We are constantly in touch with the Cement Controller, who also attends these meetings. The state Governments' requisitions are received and we try to sort out the things. I can say as of now, no serious complaint about this has been received. We have tried to streamline the distribution of cement to various States and project authorities.

Another very important point raised by the hon. Member is : why do we create potential when the potential already created is not being utilised ? This is a serious problem. The figure for utilised potential is, unfortunately, growing. In 1973-74 the figure of unutilised potential was 2 million hectares and it has gone up in 1982-83 to 4.8 million hectares. On the one hand, we have completed some irrigation works, provided more potential; on the other hand we have not been able to utilize it through the various methods that are available to us. This problem has been with us for quite a few years. It is because of this situation of lag between potential created and its utilization that in 1974-75 the Command Area Development Programme was introduced. It has been going on since then in a number of States and number of Projects have started.

All the things that the hon. Member mentioned regarding the field channels, water management technique, provision of water to the tail-enders, rotational irrigation, drainage and cross drainage works, all these from part of the CAD programme. We have further strengthened the CAD programme this year by announcing that Rs. 25 crores would be made available to the Command Area Development Authority; where the performance is found to exceed the target, for the construction of field channels, we would be able to assist them more than what they normally get.

Lastly, the hon. Member mentioned that we have a potential of 113 million hectares. This is true. According to the surveys carried out, as on today our water resources

minor, medium, ground water etc. is 113 million hectares, of which we have utilized just about 50 per cent. If we continue the rate of development that we are projecting, by the end of the century or may be a little beyond, we would have utilized all this. But, still vast areas would remain without irrigation.

So, what is the solution for this problem? It is a very serious thing to imagine that all our known water resources are only 113 million hectares, only 50 per cent of which we have so far been able to utilize and with the tempo of development we have created, we propose to increase the tempo and by the turn of the century or a little beyond that, we will be able to utilize them. So, the only solution before us is that we should have a massive transfer of water from areas where at times it is plentiful. Flood waters have to be impounded, have to be stored; when the flood waters are plenty, that water has to be transferred to areas which are drought-prone, which are not getting water. That is the only solution before us. In that context, we have done a lot and I will presently explain what we are doing.

I will first refer to the rate of our development of irrigation. When our planning started in 1951, till the end of the Fourth Plan in 1974, we were developing potential at the rate of one million hectares every year. From that time onwards we stepped up this potential to 2 million hectares. In the Sixth Plan it is more than 2 million hectares. Our aim is to step it up to 3 million hectares every year. If we can maintain this tempo at anything between 2.5 to 3 million hectares, we would have utilized everything by the end of the century. This is the plan before us.

In 1980 the Ministry of Irrigation and the Central Water Commission, after making all possible surveys, came out with what we call a national perspective for water resource development, which means we took an overall view of the situation and accepted the necessity of massive inter-basin transfer of water, water from the river basin, particularly the flood waters to areas which do not have sufficient rainfall. So, last year

we started the National Water Development Agency. It is given a time span of 7 to 10 years and a tentative budget as on today of Rs. 110 crores. We have asked this Agency to survey all river basins in the country to see how much surplus water is available and what possible steps can we taken for storing the flood water, because in our country almost three-fourths of the water we obtain during the few months of the monsoon. And the rest of the months get much less. So, unless that water which flows down to the sea and in the process causes tremendous difficulties by way of floods and other damages, is stored and is transferred when it is needed in the lean months, there is no other solution. That is the only solution for this and we do hope that this National Water Development Agency which have surveyed the whole thing would receive the cooperation of various States and other agencies so that in the next 10 or 12 years we are able to prepare a complete blueprint of our country's water resources and the way it can be developed and we do hope that through this method of what is popularly called Ganga-Cauvery or Garland Canal concept, the basic idea between all these concepts is, take water at the time when it is most available, which means storage in the flood season and take it to other areas whether by lifting or through any other means, to areas where they are needed. This is how we propose to meet our ultimate demands after 2000 A.D. when we would have exhausted our known resources as at present.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Sudhir Giri. You can put a question because Half-an-Hour discussion is already over.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : I am putting a question. Sir, the importance of agriculture in the life of the Indian people is no doubt the greatest thing. In this connection, the importance of irrigation is very much felt by all sections of people.

We have been importing foodgrains from abroad by spending thousands of crores of rupees. Still why do we not . . .

(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why I said you must put a question is this, what question you would have put to the Minister if that question had been allowed and you would have participated ? That is why I said 'put your question'. Some reply given by the Minister is not satisfying. And therefore, what Supplementary you would have put, that question only you must put even now, not as a general discussion on food situation and all that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : There has been a convention that by putting the question we have to prepare the background.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not in the Half-an-Hour discussion.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : No, Sir I am not going to have any discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Be short. That is my request to you.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Sir, the importance of irrigation has been felt by all sections of the people and it is more felt because of the fact that we have been importing foodgrains from outside by spending thousands of crores of rupees. Sir, the production of food crops in our country definitely contributes towards the price stabilisation. In the age of spiralling prices, we want that sufficient foodstuffs should be here. But my question is : Why does not the Government pay due attention for making more land irrigated because due to lack of irrigation we are not in a position to produce more ?

Sir, in the Sixth Five-Year Plan a total sum of Rs. 8,448.36 crores has been allotted. Out of this total sum, the States will spend Rs. 8,301.46 crores and the Union Territories will spend Rs. 56.90 crores.

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Central sector will spend only Rs. 90 crores. You are aware that the States resources are very much limited. Now-a-days the Central Government has been taking away power from the States and in this

background I want to put a specific question to the hon. Minister whether the Minister would agree to give more money to the States for irrigation purposes.

In my own Constituency Central Ground Water Development Corporation made an investigation about ten years back and they submitted a report to the effect that in South of West Bengal Ground water is not available. But for the last two years there has been severe drought in our area. People who could afford some money have been arranging for sinking shallow tube well. They have been able to draw underground water. In this background may I put a question to the hon. Minister whether the would agree to instruct the Central Ground Water Development Corporation to make a further investigation in that area of whether water can be drawn from underground ?

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (बाली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक जितनी सिंचाई योजनाएँ बनी हैं, क्या उनमें से किसी भी योजना का टारगेट पूरा हुआ है। वह कोई योजना बता दें, जिसका टारगेट पूरा हो गया हो।

पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है :—

Faulty planning shows out of 58 irrigation projects not a single irrigation project in the country has been completed in time. As many as 58 irrigation projects, started before 1969, are still languishing. Of these 11 projects were carried over from the First Plan, 30 from the Second Plan, 24 from the Third Plan and 10 projects from the Annual Plan.

हमारे घर का उदाहरण है राजस्थान कैनाल पन्त जी ने 1958 में उसका उद्घाटन किया, जबकि उसकी लागत 58 करोड़ रुपए आंकी गई। आज 500 करोड़ रुपए में भी वह पूरी नहीं होने जा रही है। इन प्रोजेक्ट्स को कौन बनाता है ? कोई भी प्रोजेक्ट टाइम पर पूरी नहीं हो पाती है। पब्लिक एकाउंट्स

कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है कि 58 प्राजेक्ट्स अभी तक पूरी नहीं हुई हैं। इस स्थिति में इरिगेशन का काम कैसे पूरा होगा ?

इन प्राजेक्ट्स पर देश की जो धनराशि खर्च की गई है, उसका क्या रिटर्न मिला है और सरकार उससे क्या रिटर्न चाहती थी ? जो भी योजनाएँ आपने बनाईं उनकी क्षमता का पूरा उपयोग नहीं हुआ इसीलिए घाटा होता है। फिर आपको रिटर्न क्या मिला ?

तीसरी बात यह है कि हमारे राजस्थान में आपकी एक योजना है।

“A target of creating an additional irrigation potential of say, 7 million hectares from ground-water sources is proposed during the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) through construction of the following units of ground water structures.”

यह छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना का आपका टारगेट है। आप मेहरबानी करके बतलायें कि आप कितने टारगेट तक पहुँच सकेंगे ? राजस्थान में ग्राउंड वाटर रिसोर्सेज को यूटिलाइज किया जा सकता है और सरकार ने उसका टारगेट बनाया है लेकिन जो भी योजना बनती है उसको कार्यान्वित नहीं किया जाता है। देसाई जी ने जो बात कही थी उसको मैं रिपोर्ट नहीं करना चाहता लेकिन यह बात सही है कि जहाँ तक पानी का सम्बन्ध है, जिसके हाथ में लाठी है वह उसको जबर्दस्ती ले लेता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ इस सम्बन्ध में क्या आपने कोई माडल रूल्स बनाए हैं जिनको कि सारी स्टेट्स फालो कर सकें ? इरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट के रूल्स इतने पुराने हैं कि आज भी जितना पानी एवेलेबल होता है उसका उपयोग बड़े-बड़े लोग ही करते हैं, छोटे लोग उससे वंचित रह जाते हैं।

मैंने जो क्वेश्चन्स किए हैं उनका उत्तर मन्त्री जी देने की कृपा करें।

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यहाँ पर माननीय सदस्यों ने जो प्रश्न पूछे हैं उनको मैं दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूँ। जहाँ तक राजस्थान कैनाल का सम्बन्ध है, अभी डागा साहब ने बताया कि 1958 में उसका उद्घाटन किया गया था लेकिन अभी तक उसका निर्माण कार्य पूरा नहीं हो सका है। प्रश्न यह है कि जितनी भी योजनाएँ हैं वह कार्यक्रम के अनुसार न चलकर ज्यादा समय क्यों ले रही हैं ? सारे देश में जितनी भी योजनाएँ बनाई गई हैं उनमें डिले हुई है। मैं समझता हूँ विशेष तौर से इस डिले का कारण इन्टर-स्टेट डिसप्पूट्स है। इसके लिए ट्रिब्यूनल मुकर्रर किए जाते हैं और ट्रिब्यूनल बहुत टाइम लेते हैं। सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के पास सिवाय समझाने-बुझाने के और कोई अधिकार भी नहीं है इरिगेशन का सब्जेक्ट कान्क्रसेन्ट लिस्ट में है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपने हाथ में इस तरह का अधिकार लेना चाहती है (इस सम्बन्ध में हमें आश्वासन भी दिया गया था) और उसके लिए कोई लेजिस्लेशन लाना चाहती है जिससे कि इन्टर-स्टेट डिसप्पूट्स का जल्दी से जल्दी निर्णय किया जा सके ? केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास अधिक शक्ति हो, क्या इसके लिए कोई कदम उठाने के लिए आप तैयार हैं ?

कोयले के बारे में देसाई साहब ने प्रश्न रखा था कि वह समय पर उपलब्ध नहीं होता है। सीमेंट और स्टील भी उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाती है। राजस्थान कैनाल की निर्माण गति जो धीमी रही उसके पीछे भी यही कारण था। राजस्थान नहर का निर्माण कार्य अब तीव्र गति से चल रहा है और दूसरी स्टेज का काम चालू है। हमारे क्षेत्र में गडरा रोड में,

जोकि सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र है, 185 किलोमीटर का भाग आता है। दो लाख एकड़ क्षेत्र की सिंचाई वाड़मेर और जैसलमेर में होती है। अगर केन्द्रीय सरकार विशेष सहायता दे तो राजस्थान का जो रेगिस्तानी क्षेत्र है, उसकी उन्नति हो सकती है, उसका भी विकास हो सकता है। नहर सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र में है : यह नहर डिफेंस की दृष्टि से बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। यदि तीव्र गति से इस पर काम किया जाएगा और जो आप क्षेत्रफल बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, वह क्षेत्रफल भी बढ़ जाएगा और आपकी योजना का मकसद भी पूरा हो जाएगा। पंजाब में 110 परसेंट 120 परसेंट इंटेंसिटी यूटिलाइज करते हैं और वाटर लॉगिंग होता है। हमारे क्षेत्र में 40-50 परसेंट इन्टेंसिटी होती है। उसके उपयोग से कल्टिवेशन करके हमारे क्षेत्र का विकास यदि करना चाहती है तो क्या इस संबंध में भी सरकार विचार करके उनको बाध्य करेगी कि कि 110-120 इन्टेंसिटी और वाटर लॉगिंग से कॉटन का प्रोडक्शन जो कम हो रहा है, उस इन्टेंसिटी को कम करके क्षेत्र का विकास करेगी? जैसे कि आपने फरमाया कि फलड को रिस्टोर करके ड्राउट प्रांत एरियाज में उसको पहुंचाया जाएगा, उसी प्रकार जो क्षेत्र अविकसित हैं, ड्राउट एरियाज हैं, जहां पानी का बड़ा भारी संकट है, उन क्षेत्रों का विकास करने के लिए आप कुछ निर्णय लेंगे?

श्री वी. डी. सिंह (फूलपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश में कृषि के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए हमें सिंचाई को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए। लेकिन वह अब तक नहीं दी गई है। माननीय सदस्य, श्री देसाई और माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि हमने छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना का जो लक्ष्य बनाया था, उसको पूरा करने में

समर्थ नहीं हैं। हमने दो हजार ए. डी. तक 113 मिलियन हेक्टेयर सिंचाई करने का लक्ष्य रखा है। यदि हिसाब लगाया जाए, तो तीन मिलियन हेक्टर प्रतिवर्ष एव्रैज आता है, लेकिन वह अचीवमेंट, कैसे हो सकता है जब छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना का टारगेट, किसी भी साल में पूरा नहीं हो रहा है। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के तीन साल बीत चुके हैं और इसका इसका प्लान का लक्ष्य 14 मिलियन हेक्टेयर था, लेकिन बीत रहे तीन साल में हमने 6.8 मिलियन हेक्टेयर प्राप्त किया है। इस प्रकार हम लक्ष्य की पूर्ति में बहुत पीछे हैं।

दूसरे अभी माननीय मंत्री जी से कमांड एरिया डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम की बात की है। इसमें भी छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना का जो लक्ष्य था, उसकी पूर्ति करने में हम पीछे रहे हैं। इस पर पैसा 966.3 करोड़ रु० खर्च किया जाना था।

लेकिन हमने पिछले तीन सालों में केवल 416 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किये हैं। इस तरह से कमाण्ड एरिया डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम में भी हम लक्ष्य से बहुत पीछे हैं।

वाराबंडी का लक्ष्य 15 लाख है हेक्टेयर का था और उसमें से पिछले तीन सालों में हमारा एचीवमेंट 5.64 लाख हेक्टेयर है। इस तरह से हम देख रहे हैं कि हर क्षेत्र में सिंचाई की प्राप्ति लक्ष्य से बहुत दूर है। हमने वह लक्ष्य भी रखा था कि 25 लाख पम्पों को छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में एनर्जाइज करेंगे लेकिन तीन साल बीत रहे हैं और अभी केवल 10 लाख पम्प-सेट ही इनर्जाइज हो पाए हैं। इसको भी हम पूरा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं।

एक बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारा जो सोन एरिया है, उसमें आप करीब 28 परसेंट सिंचाई कर पाए हैं जबकि आप

अपने 20 सूत्री कार्यक्रम में गरीबों और हरिजनों की बात करते हैं लेकिन जो ट्राइबल एरिया है, उसमें मुश्किल से 1 या 2 परसेन्ट एरिया में ही सिंचाई की सुविधा दे पाए है। आप विशेष प्रयास करके सिंचाई के क्षेत्रफल को क्यों नहीं बढ़ा रहे हैं।

एक और चीज़ करना चाहूंगा। जो ट्यूब-वेल्स आप लगाते हैं, उनकी क्षमता हर साल कुछ न कुछ घटती जाती है लेकिन आप प्रारम्भ में एक ट्यूबवेल जितना एरिया सोंचेगा, उसी को प्रतिवर्ष मान कर अपना एचीवमेंट दिखाते हैं। जो परसेन्टेज घटता है, उसको आप माइनस क्यों नहीं करते, यह मेरा प्रश्न है ?

हमारे यहां पानी का नुकसान बहुत होता है। इसमें यू० एन० डी० पी० के अध्ययन के अनुसार पता चलता है कि 25 पर सेन्ट पानी का नुकसान केनाल सिस्टम में होता है, 22.5 पर सेन्ट पानी का नुकसान वाटर कोर्सेज से होता है और 21.5 पर सेन्ट का नुकसान खेतों में होता है। इस तरह से 69 पर सेन्ट पानी का नुकसान होता है जिसमें सिल्टेशन और खरपतवार से होने वाला नुकसान सम्मिलित नहीं है। अगर उनको भी शामिल कर लिया जाए, नुकसान बहुत अधिक होगा।

मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा। वहां पर जो भी पानी की सोर्सेज हैं, उनसे किसानों को पानी ठीक से नहीं मिलता है। कहीं पर ट्यूबल की नालियां ठीक नहीं हैं और दूसरी बात यह है कि गांवों में वास्तव में नालियां हैं ही नहीं। ऐसा सोचा गया था कि कन्सोलीडेशन अगर होगा, तो चक्र रोड अच्छे बन जाएंगे। नालियां बन जाएंगी लेकिन चक्र बन जाने के बाद, कन्सोलीडेशन होने के बाद नालियां ठीक से नहीं बनी और अभी उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार

ने क्या किया है कि 1 जुलाई से सिंचाई की दर 20 प्रतिशत बढ़ा दी है। और इस प्रकार 20 करोड़ रुपया अतिरिक्त उसे मिलने जा रहा है। इसमें आप यह उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को निर्देश दें कि सिंचाई की दर बढ़ाने से जो इतना रुपया आएगा, वह सारा का सारा रुपया गांवों में चैनल्स को ठीक करने और नालियों को दुरुस्त करने में लगाए, जिससे किसानों के खेतों में पानी पहुंच सके जो कि अभी नहीं पहुंच पा रहा है।

अन्त में मैं एक प्रश्न यह करना चाहूंगा कि सन 1947 से 1982 तक हमारे देश की नदियों का जो पानी है, वह प्रति वर्ष कितने प्रतिशत समुद्र में जा रहा है, इस बात तो मंत्री जी बताएं और जितने प्रतिशत पानी समुद्र में जा रहा है, उसमें कमी हुई है या वृद्धि हुई है

मेरे इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर माननीय मंत्री जी दें।

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I am very grateful to the hon. Members for raising the issues that can really keep us busy for a much longer time than what you would permit. However, I would try to answer briefly the points that have been raised, starting with Shri Sudhir Giri, about the survey of ground water in West Bengal.

The Central Ground Water Board is carrying on survey all over the country for water resources. First they have a systematic survey hydrologically and then they do the actual borings to test the water situation. The same thing is happening in West Bengal. As regards hydrological survey, almost the whole State has been covered, and the next stage now would be to actually bore holes and see what sort of strata is available, what sort of water is available. Even then, this would be only sample testing. What we expect after this survey is over is that the State Governments, on their own, would carry out detailed surveys in their own areas so that water-bearing strata is

discovered and tubewalls are dug so that water could be taken.

About the recent drought which was mentioned, that some wells were dug and results have come, we discussed it with the West Bengal Government authorities and we have suggested to them that they should strengthen their organization for ground water development. We are prepared to assist them in this. We have a scheme of providing rigs at 50 per cent subsidy to the various State organizations and a lot can be done to tune up the ground water development organization in West Bengal. I am in touch with them, and it is only after they have carried out these surveys that it would be possible to see which pockets in South West Bengal have actually water-bearing strata.

As regards the general point raised regarding more resources to be made available to the State Governments, I have said just now in my reply to Mr. Desai that a sum of Rs. 1,650 crores has been made available to the State Governments, apart from more share in the loans that will be raised. But the problem lies in this. The State Governments themselves do not give the priority which should be given to irrigation projects. And most of the difficulties that have been recounted actually start from this. Water is a State subject. They are responsible for its development and utilisation. Whatever assistance is available from the Central Government is available to them and they should give enough of importance to this; I do hope, as I said earlier, that, out of the additional resources, more and more money would be made available for irrigation in the respective areas.

As regards the Public Accounts Committee's observations regarding the problem of irrigation works not finishing in time, as I said earlier, this is a situation which we have been considering for a long time. It is not a situation that has developed all of a sudden and to which the Public Accounts Committee has drawn our attention. We are indeed grateful to the Public Accounts Committee for taking on a subject which is of vital importance. Their conclusions are based on the data supplied by us, and the conclusions they have arrived at have high-

lighted the problems which we in our Ministry have always been conscious of. To have them projected at a higher level by a respectable Committee and a very important Committee of this House has served the purpose well, and we support all that they have said with respect to this.

Just to recount, we appointed a Committee long time back exactly to consider the whole situation. We called it Naigamwala Committee which was established in 1972. The Central Water Commission established the Committee to avoid delays. Then the Conference of State Irrigation Ministers discussed this problem on a number of occasions. And various things came to light. Then it was asked why these schemes are faulty. Well, it is not because of any faulty scheme. Mostly it is because of various other factors which I will refer to. The procedure is that State Government surveys a particular scheme, it sends it to the Central Water Commission which scrutinises it from the technical angle and then there is a Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission who goes through and recommends it to the Planning Commission for inclusion as a plan scheme. This is the procedure that is followed. But the type of difficulties that arise are many. Firstly there is the cost escalation. Whatever targets we had before, because of the delays, they have not been able to stick to them and delays are there because States have taken up too many projects under pressure from all of us—I should say, because we are always after the State, 'Please include my project.' and rightly so. Why not? Still, the States have maintained a discipline in this respect. I should bring it to the notice of the House that as much as 75% to 80% of the annual allocations, we advise the States, to use for existing and on going works and more or less they conform to that. What more can we expect from them? Whatever little is left, that is, about 20% naturally goes to areas which have been deprived of irrigation till now. These are very backward and drought-prone areas which have not had any survey scheme. If you accept this proposition that from now onwards, all money will be used for ongoing projects only, I think it would not be a very healthy proposition because there are vast areas which are waiting at least for a

beginning of a scheme and it is these schemes which are included in this 20% that I mentioned. A new beginning is made. This is mainly due to lack of funds. When more funds become available, we take up more schemes.

Another thing is that when you start it, there are a certain type and scope of the scheme like how much do you want to extend it and what are the canals you want, etc. Then again because of public pressure you want to take the canal a little further and then the scheme is revised further. Cost escalation is also there and it goes on and on. What I say is that we very much welcome in this respect the findings of the Public Accounts Committee which will be a guideline for us how to act in future so far as formulation and implementation of these policies are concerned.

About the cost-benefit ratio we have a certain formula. In drought areas it is a little liberal and in other areas it is a little different. It is according to this we evolve and before we approve it, we mention it in our appraisal of the project as to what is the cost-benefit ratio of that particular project. From that point of view it works all right.

We come to the Rajasthan canal about which a mention was made. It was started in 1958. It has been delayed. The reasons of delay, as I said, are that the State is not able, like many other States, to devote a large portion of their resources for this purpose.

As regards the coal situation, it is now very satisfactory. We are constantly in touch with the Rajasthan Government authorities. There is no problem as of now. They are getting good quality coal and everything is going on all right.

One very important point Mr. Virldhi Chander Jain mentioned and that takes us to the root of the irrigation policy - whether we should have concentrated on 2-3 crop intensive irrigation in a limited area or use that same water to spread it to wider areas as a sort of a protective irrigation or an irrigation which will at least give people one crop. I think he has pointed to a very

important aspect of the policy and this extension of Rajasthan Canal to the Gadra Road is part of the same policy that we should extend the benefits of irrigation to as wide areas as possible even if it results in less intensity of irrigation. I do hope that this policy would work.

As regards reducing it in Punjab and other places, as you know, the States have their share of water as per the Ravi-Beas accord and they can use water of their share in any way they like and Rajasthan is exercising its option. It is a welcome sign that it is using it for more extensive irrigation because it meets the situation in a very special way. As regards special assistance, to Rajasthan Canal all I can say is that Rs. 40 crore was sanctioned specially for Rajasthan Canal - Rs. 15 crores in the last year, Rs. 15 crore this year and Rs. 10 crore for the next year. This is over and above the State Plan resources and I think this should help them increase the tempo of construction of the canal.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Rajasthan is the only State which has invested the full amount, which was entrusted to it for Rajasthan Canal and therefore special assistance should be given to the State.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Of late, the tempo of work of Rajasthan Canal has been stepped up a lot.

SHRI VIRLDHI CHANDER JAIN : They also want more money for Garda Road project.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : As regards Gadra Extension Scheme, funds have not yet been sanctioned. As soon as the detailed project report and estimates come, I am sure we will give consideration to that and we will make available the resources.

(Interruptions)

Now, Mr. B. D. Singh has raised a number of points which are very basic and important. I do not deny them. But if I answer everything, that will take a lot of time. He mentioned about the targets not

being reached in C.A.D. in Warahandi, in water development and other types. That is precisely because the States have not allocated enough funds. As regard Central Government's seriousness, I may point out that in the Sixth Plan allocation, for irrigation, it is Rs. 12,700 crores or so, which is more than all the previous Plans put together. It is also the first point in our 20-point Programme. We are very much conscious of the importance of irrigation and we try to do all that we can. But whether the pumpsets are functioning or not, whether the channels that are drawn are proper or not, again it is the area of the State Government and we would not like to interfere too much in this. But whatever hon. Members bring to our notice, we take up with them in an informal way. Sometimes in a formal way and sometimes these problems do get solved.

Now, lining of the channels, because of the lot of loss in transition, is also one of the very important programmes. Most of the losses are because of the old unlined channels. Some of them in U.P. is hundred years old or more than that. So they do need modernisation. So, one of the ideas

is to have modernisation of old works by lining them, by remodelling the barrages and other works so that more and proper use of water can be made. Some States have made modernisation schemes of old irrigation projects and I think we would be able to do it.

Lastly, about the inter-State disputes, it is true that they are holding up many of our projects. But all we can say is that these disputes can only be solved by mutual cooperation between the States themselves and Central Government has always played the role of conciliatory which brings them together for discussion and many of the things have been solved. So, all that we can say is that given the goodwill and a little accommodation, these water disputes would be solved so that many of the works which have been held up because of the absence of agreement between the various States are taken up immediately for the benefit of the people. Thank you.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 9, 1983/ Sravana 18, 1905 (Saka).