

ANNUAL REPORT OF DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION FOR 1973-74 WITH AUDIT REPORT AND A STATEMENT FOR DELAY

कृषि मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (प्रो. सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखना हूँ :—

(एक) दामोदर घाटी अधिनियम, 1948 की धारा 45 की उप-धारा (5) के अन्तर्गत दामोदर घाटी निगम के वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) को एक प्रति तथा वर्ष 1973-74 के लेख सम्बन्धी लेखा-परीक्षा प्रतिवेदन ।

(दो) उपर्युक्त प्रतिवेदन सभा पटल पर रखने में हुए विलम्ब के कारण बताने वाला एक विवरण (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) ।

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-11138/76.]

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF GUJARAT MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., AHMEDABAD FOR 1974-75

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers under sub-section (3) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 read with clause (c) (iii) of the Proclamation dated the 12th March, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat:—

- (1) Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of Gujarat on the working of the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad for the year 1974-75.

- (2) Annual Report of the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1974-75 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11139/76].

11.58 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Antiquities and Art Treasures (Amendment) Bill, 1976, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th August, 1976."

ANTIQUITIES AND ART TREASURES (AMENDMENT) BILL

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Antiquities and Art Treasures (Amendment) Bill, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

11.59 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DROUGHT SITUATION IN VARIOUS STATES

MR. SPEAKER: Before I take up the Calling Attention notice, I would like to impress upon the House that we should be brief. I do not want them not to make more points, but they should be brief. So the first Member should not take more than 3-4 minutes and the other hon. Members 2 to 3 minutes, so

[Mr. Speaker]

that we are able to finish the item in 30-35 minutes. This will enable me to admit more Calling Attention notices. Otherwise, if you take more time, it will be difficult to adjust.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur). On this Calling Attention, may I say with your permission that we had also sent in a Calling Attention notice? But we want a full discussion of the drought situation prevailing in the country. That will be more helpful so that more members can participate.

MR. SPEAKER You write to me.

I would also request Ministers to make a complete but a brief reply, not a prolonged reply.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) Brief on both sides.

12 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH) Very brief.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) Questions should also be brief. Today the whole list is over

AN HON MEMBER It should be mini

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU (Nagapattinam) I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that a statement be made thereon:

The drought situation in various States resulting in lack of drinking water and death of livestock particularly in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other drought-prone regions

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-

SAHEB P. SHINDE): This year the South-west monsoon set in time on 31st May in Kerala and moved rapidly to some parts of the Peninsula. However, the monsoon activity weakened, particularly in the South during the second and third weeks of June. The monsoon revived in Southern and some eastern States in the last week of June but in most parts of the country it remained weak until the first week of July. Due to erratic behaviour of monsoon Government have received reports of drought in parts of West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. In Tamil Nadu on account of deficiency in the last North-East monsoon, which is the main source of rainfall in that State, drought condition was reported in some districts.

According to the available information, crop position in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh is good as the monsoon has been adequate in these States. In Madhya Pradesh and Orissa the position is satisfactory except in a few isolated pockets. In certain areas of West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, due to dry spells and deficient rainfall transplantation of paddy has been delayed. Although South-west monsoon advanced into Kerala well in time, generally scanty rainfall persisted upto middle of July. There has been some improvement thereafter but the overall rainfall so far in the State is deficient by about 45 per cent. The crop sown in the first part of Viruppu season was affected. In Karnataka rains received during May to July were delayed and deficient. The northern districts, the coastal and Malnad areas of the State have not been affected except in small pockets. The southern districts were affected. However, during the month of July there has been rainfall all over the State except in some Talukas, and the position in most of the areas has improved. In

Tamil Nadu, besides the difficulties caused in some districts on account of deficient North-East monsoon, due to inadequate rainfall in the catchment areas in Western Ghats in the States of Karnataka and Kerala, the reservoirs have not filled up. This has delayed release of water for irrigation.

There have been no report of death of livestock for lack of fodder in any part of the country. Reports have been received of drinking water problems in certain parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These are being tackled by the State Governments concerned.

During the past four weeks widespread and good rains have been received in most parts of the country. If the current tempo of monsoon activity is maintained, it is expected that the position will improve in the affected States.

Ours is a large country. Inadequate or uneven distribution of rainfall in some parts or pockets is not an unusual feature.

The food situation in the country is comfortable at present. As a result of the bumper crops in 1975-76, there is easy availability of foodgrains all over the country. In addition Government hold a record stock of over 17 million tonnes which will enable it to meet the full needs of the public distribution system and maintain prices at reasonable levels. Additional allotments of foodgrains are also being made to deficit States like Kerala, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

As already explained, the overall position is such as need not cause serious concern. However, we are in constant touch with the State Governments and depending on the developments in the coming months

such steps as may be necessary will be taken.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: The statement made by the hon. Minister shows that they are quite complacent because it says: "...the overall position is such as need not cause any serious concern." That does not give the true picture. For instance, 10 out of 15 districts in Tamilnadu are affected by drought conditions and according to the statement of the state government they are spending about Rs. 10 crores on drinking water alone. They will be spending about Rs. 12 crores in ten districts on employment for agricultural labour in drought prone areas. Fodder is not available; drinking water is not available and most of the lands in those ten districts are barren. The statement also refers to the failure of rainfall in western Ghats and the consequent delay in the release of water in the Cauvery system. Even when the water was released after about a month's delay, it was inadequate and the G.A. canal area in Delta region and other areas also have not received water supply and as a result nearly 4-5 lakh of acres of land are not getting water for cultivation. I want to ask the government whether the state government had asked for any financial assistance from the central government and if so what amount has been asked for? For the last fifteen years drought has been affecting some districts or the other and for the last five years continuously Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Coimbatore had been affected by drought conditions. If the government could spend on desilting the irrigation canals, tanks etc. it would help in creating permanent assets. I want to know whether any proposals had been sent by the state government, how much money is proposed to be given by the central government and whether there is any proposal to set up committees consisting of representatives from

[Shri M. Kathamuthu]

political parties and other groups to look after relief work there.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:
I was in Tamilnadu myself yesterday and I took the opportunity of ascertaining the position from the State Administration. First of all, the difficulty has come up there not because of the current rainfall in Tamil Nadu proper but because of the failure of the north-east monsoon, which is there normally from October to November or December. Thereafter, a central team was sent in April and on its recommendations, Rs. 7½ crores of advance plan assistance has been made available to the Tamilnadu Government for taking such steps as they may deem necessary for giving relief to those who are affected. Again, Tamilnadu has made a request that a central team should be sent to review the position afresh. The request is being examined and there would not be any difficulty in sending a central team again to review the position. At the moment, as far as the south-west monsoon is concerned, the rainfall has been normal in Tamilnadu proper, but that is not so important for Tamilnadu. The main crop is paddy which is mainly irrigated and the irrigation system receives its water from reservoirs which receive rainfall from the south-west monsoon. Because of the failure of the south-west monsoon in Karnataka and Kerala, the availability of water for the irrigation system has been adversely affected in Tamilnadu. I think the north-east monsoon is still to come and it is on record that sometimes even during September-October the reservoirs get filled. If the north-east monsoon is normal and the reservoir system gets filled, perhaps Tamilnadu may not have any worry. Crops other than paddy, like maize, rabi, chulam, bajra, sugarcane etc. are normal. Only in paddy, transplantation is

affected to some extent and because of non-transplantation of paddy, the rural landless labour has been affected. The Tamilnadu Administration is taking all necessary steps. 1,30,000 people are on employment now.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (मोतीहारी) : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपना बयान दिया है वह सही है। आपके कथनानुसार उन्होंने बड़ा संक्षिप्त बयान दिया है हालांकि ऐसा संक्षिप्त बयान देने से सारे देश की परिस्थिति का पता नहीं चलता है। मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में माना है कि बेस्ट बगल, बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, केरल और तमिलनाडु में बारिश कम हुई है और वहां की हालत शोचनीय है। मैं आपके द्वारा बनाना चाहता हूँ, मैंने बिहार सरकार से जो आंकड़े मंगवाये हैं उसमें बिहार सरकार ने लिखा है कि उत्तर बिहार की हालत भी खराब है। दक्षिण बिहार के लिए उन्होंने कहा है :

"Almost entire Nawada, Nalanda and Aurangabad district and non-irrigated areas in Bhojpur, Rohtas and Gaya districts, Jamaui sub-division of Monghyr district and Barika sub-division of Bhagalpur district in South Bihar plains.

(2) Almost entire Giridih district, some pockets of Simdega and Gumla sub-divisions in Ranchi district, some pockets of Garhwa and Sadar sub-divisions in Palamau district some pockets of Baghmara sub-division in Dhanbad district and Deoghar, Jamtara and Godda and Duiya sub-divisions in Santhal Parganas district in the plateau region.

(3) Saran, Siwan and Gopalganj district and Supaul sub-division of Saharsa district in North Bihar."

इस के अलावा चम्पारन जिले के आंकड़े मेरे पास इस वक़्त नहीं हैं, मैंने आज भी बिहार

सरकार को टेलीफोन किया था और उन्होंने बताया कि अभी बाकड़े नहीं आये हैं। लेकिन 4 अगस्त के आर्यवर्त में छाया है, यह पटना की तारीख 2 अगस्त की न्यूज है—इसमें लिखा है—पटना में केवल 15 प्रतिशत धान की रोपनी हुई है। इसी तरह से नामन्दा में 10, गया में 5, नवादा में 5, औरंगाबाद में 10, भाजपुर में 12 रोहतास में 7, सारन में 35, सीवान में 30, गोपालगं : में 30, पूर्व चम्पारण में 70, मुजफ्फरपुर में 45, वैशाली में 40, सीतामढ़ी में 50, दरभंगा में 35, मधुबनी में 40, समस्तीपुर में 25, बेगूसराय में 10, मुंगेर में 8, भागलपुर में 10, वैशाल पगना में 5, महरसा में 35, पूर्णिया में 35, कटिहार में 30, हजारी बाग में 35, गिरिडीह में 8, धनबाद में 10, रांची में 10, पलामू में 5 और सिंहभूमि में 15 प्रतिशत में धान की रोपनी हुई है।

अध्यक्ष जी, पानी के अभाव में बिहार के जिलों की यह हालत है। जब मैं हम लोक सभा के मैम्बर हुए हैं यहां पर बराबर यही हालत रहती है। मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान बहुत बड़ा देश है। पैडिन जी ने भी एक दफा कहा था कि हिन्दुस्तान एक बहुत बड़ा देश है, इस में कहीं पर सूखा होगा और कहीं पर बारिश होगी। लेकिन मेरा कहना यह है कि जो यन्त्र हमारे हाथ में —सिंचाई की व्यवस्था वा—उसका तो काम करना चाहिए। मेरे जिले में गण्डक नहर है, और गण्डक नहर ठीक से चलती तो मैं समझता हूं कि चम्पारन, सारन, मुजफ्फरपुर, दरभंगा क्षेत्रों में इस तरह की स्थिति पैदा न होती। लेकिन गण्डक प्राजेक्ट की क्या हालत है—आप स्वयं भी जानते हैं। अध्यक्ष जी, हमारे यहां पहले मेठ होता है, उसके ऊपर पैट्रोल, उसके पर अभीन, फिर धावरसियर, उसके ऊपर एस० डी० ओ०,

फिर एक्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर, सुपीटेंडिंग इंजीनियर, तब एडीशनल चीफ, इंजिनियर, इंजिनियर-इन-चीफ, चीफ इंजिनियर—इतने देखभाल करने वाले लोग हैं, फिर भी नहर टूट जाती है, कभी ब्रांच टूट जाती है, अगर यह टूटे नहीं तो खेती में बहुत काम हो सकता है।

जहां ट्यूबवैल में पानी मिलता है, प्राइवेट ट्यूबवैल वाले कहते हैं कि 7 रुपया घन्टा दीजिए, हम आपकी खेती की सिंचाई कर देंगे। यदि 7 रुपया घन्टा दिया जाय तो जिसमें पाम एक बीघा जमीन है, उसको 400 रुपया खर्चा पड़ता है, अब आप बनाइए इतना पैसा पानी पर खर्च करेंगे किसान को क्या बचेगा।

इस सम्बन्ध में बिहार अमम्बली में भी बहस हुई। मेरे जिले के डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट ने भी इस सम्बन्ध में काफी काम किया है। सबसे मुख्य बात यह है कि सिंचाई की व्यवस्था ठीक हो जाय तो समस्या का समाधान हो सकता है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि —माइनर इरिगेशन, ट्यूबवैल का काम भी आपकों हो हाथ में है—आप इस सम्बन्ध में कौन सा कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं कि जल्दसे धान की खेती शुरू हो और जब तक खत्म हो—केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को हिदायत करने के लिए, पूरी मशीनरी को सक्रिय रूप से जागरूक रखने के लिए —आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं।

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: Because of the delay in the onset of monsoon, there has been some delay in the transplantation operations and so very large parts of Bihar have been very adversely affected. But recently the position has improved considerably. The hon. Member mentioned the position upto the 2nd of August. After that, there has been widespread rains in both the plains

[Shri Annasabab P. Shinde]

of Bihar and South Bihar. This may help improve the position. It is true that delay in transplantation will have adverse effect on paddy. The State Government is seized of the matter. If the State Government feel that help of the Centre is required, we will extend the necessary help to the Bihar Government. At the moment the Bihar Government is taking steps to provide power to tubewells without interruption. As far as the permanent remedy is concerned, I entirely share the views of the hon. Minister. In fact, Bihar's agriculture can be brought under control and there can be stability if utilisation of the underground and surface water resources is carried out with efficiency and proper organisation. These are all items falling in the State sector, and the State Government has plans for implementing them. If there are any shortcomings and if any Central assistance is needed, we will discuss it with the State Government, and with the concurrence of the Planning Commission, it will not be difficult to help the State Government.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : साउथ बिहार में पानी का पानी तक नहीं मिल रहा है—

सम्पन्न महोदय एक मिटिंग बिहार के चीफ मिनिस्टर और यहाँ के इन्विशेन मिनिस्टर की करवाइये, दानों को साथ बिठाइये तब आपका मामला तय होगा ।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : चीफ मिनिस्टर आज ही आने वाले हैं ।

सम्पन्न महोदय इन से नहीं आर बडे मंत्री जी से कहिए ।

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): I must say that I am deeply disappointed, like my hon. friend Shri Kathamuthu, with the statement that the Minister has

made, because it can be a statement made at any time in any year as far as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are concerned. As this drought is an annual feature, we want to know what the Government is going to do, so that there is no repetition of this.

For instance, he talked about a Central team going to the State. The Central team goes and finishes its study in five days of 15 districts. This happened last year. It will go for another two days now and come back. This is not enough. We want to know what the Government is seriously doing about insuring the State against drought. Are you repairing the existing tanks and bunds where previously rainwater could collect, which have now fallen into disuse, so that at least drinking water is assured?

Secondly, I think complacency with regard to the crop situation is also something that should be guarded against. For instance, the official figure that is supplied by the Kerala Government is that, as far as paddy is concerned, loss due to drought there is to the tune of Rs 13 crores. This is not a small sum, and just saying that they are doing this and that, that they are going to rush them stocks etc., is a ridiculous position for the Government to take. I am sorry to say that the Minister also is more obsessed with the food part of his Ministry and is ignoring the agriculture and irrigation part even when he is replying to us. It is not only paddy that we are talking about. What about the other crops?

In Tamil Nadu, coconut palms, because of drought year after year, are drying up. What happens to the farmers who have been depending on them? What happens to the general agricultural producers? Groundnut has suffered, and now there is an oil crisis and scarcity of oil in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, in Kerala also, the estimated loss, as far as groundnut is concerned, due to de-

layed monsoon, is Rs. 1 1/2 crores, and the loss estimated because of the drying of pepper crop is as much as Rs. 44 lakhs, and pepper is one of your foreign exchange-earning commodities.

Therefore, this statement given to us is certainly not helping us to understand what urgent measures the Government is taking in order to see that this repetition does not take place.

In a district like Coimbatore, known as the Manchester of the South, today, as a result of repeated droughts year after year, even your industry is affected. Small scale industrial units are not in a position to run because of the water position, electricity and so many other things. Therefore, is Government going to step in a big way to see that whatever drought relief is given now is directed towards a permanent solution? At the same time, Government should also mention what they are going to do to solve this problem, because as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we do not find this picture being put before the people. Today the drinking water position is so acute and so serious that there is no use going only by statistics. They say they have no reports that there is any death of livestock. We do not have reports. I think, you have to go there and see the state in which our livestock is. They are skin and bone. That means, your milk production is going to be affected; agriculture is going to be affected. When 15 districts in a State are affected, you can realise the gravity of the situation.

Similarly, in Karnataka, the same position is there. When we go there and see it for ourselves, we are given memoranda. Then, on the floor of the House, we are told by the Minister that no reports are there. I think, he should take Parliament into more confidence and not only talk about reports he has or he has not. Let

him also answer the question as to why he confines himself only to this one year. This is a perennial, an annual, affair that is going on. If you go back into the proceedings of Parliament, you will find, every time, and even last year, we had to produce on the floor of the House the sort of cactus that people were eating, the ordinary grass that the people were eating, in order to get a statement from the Minister. Is that what we have to do year after year? This is what is happening year after year. It is something more than the failure of the monsoon.

Even the elementary question of repairing the old irrigation system, the modernising of the old canal system, is also being neglected year after year. Now, after one year of the Emergency, we would like to know what measures have been taken to see that some relief is ensured to the people.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:
I do not know why the hon. Lady Member is taking objection to my statement. There are two aspects of the matter. One is assessment of the situation and the other is, relief measures that are being taken depending upon a realistic assessment of the situation.

As far as the assessment is concerned, I have already explained the position. I would like to repeat that there is nothing going to be gained by exaggerating matters. For instance, the paddy crop has been affected mainly because the irrigation system which is fed by south-west monsoon failed. That is why they are not getting adequate water and irrigation facility. Only yesterday, I was in Madras and I took the opportunity to discuss the fodder problem and other problems with the State administration there. As regards the other crops, the reports given to me by the State administration are that as far as other crops are concerned, other than the paddy crop, the condition is

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not bad at all. In fact, the south-west monsoon rains are just normal though the monsoon is not the main rainfall period for Tamil Nadu.

As far as relief measures are concerned, all relief measures are directed towards desilting of tanks and, wherever water is scarce, by use of rigs, etc., the new wells are sunk. The Tamil Nadu Government has a plan, in this drought area, to have 6000 wells out of which 3000 wells have been completed. I must say, it goes to the credit of Tamil Nadu administration that all the relief measures are going on very well. Almost 1-1/2 lakh people are employed there. If more people want employment, funds will not be lacking and necessary relief will be given.

As regards the hon. Lady Member's objection to my statement with reference to food, when the drought situation develops, the main item of consumption for the masses, the people, is food. About 76 per cent of their budget goes for food. If I give an assurance to the people of Tamil Nadu that their requirements of food will be met adequately, that food will not be scarce and that the price stability will be maintained, I do not think that it is out of context and irrelevant at all.

MR SPEAKER: She only wanted to know about other crops also.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As far as the reports go, the other crops are not affected. I can assure the hon. lady Member about that.

The Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Centre for sending another team there. We shall depute a team there. Whatever measures are required to provide relief to the people of Tamil Nadu or Kerala, they will be taken. The entire country will be with Tamil Nadu and Kerala. I do not think any measure will be

lacking or wanting from our side. The Government of India is in a much better position today than ever before in the past to help the drought-affected areas and help the people there.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Even about the sinking of wells, the Central team that goes there does not concern itself with that. You see the condition of wells that have been sunk. No maintenance is there. You go to village after village. The wells have broken down. Why are they not maintained by the Water Works Department? There is no maintenance at all. A separate team should go there and look into the matter more deeply and suggest ways and means so that there is a proper regular maintenance of these wells. You go to the villages of Tamil Nadu in drought-affected areas and you will see that well after well is not functioning at all because there is no maintenance.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We take note of what the hon. lady Member is saying and we shall bring it to the notice of the Central team.

12.25 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SIXTY-THIRD REPORT

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I beg to move

'That this House do agree with the Sixty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 1976.'

MR SPEAKER: The question is

'That this House do agree with the Sixty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th August, 1976.'

The motion was adopted.