

श्रीमती बहिष्वा पी० रांगनेकर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो सवाल पूछा गया है वह बंगाल गवर्नमेन्ट को बदनाम करने के लिए है। वहाँ पर कमेटीज में एम०एल०एज हैं, आप पूछें कि वहाँ पर कमेटीज में एलेक्टेड एम०एल० एज है या नहीं।

MR. SPEAKER: He has not said anything: they may put the question, he is not at fault.

Do not record.

(Interruptions)**

Proposal from Karnataka to prevent Sea Erosion in West Coastal Area

*309. **SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to prevent sea erosion throughout West and East coasts;

(b) whether Karnataka Government have sent any proposal to prevent sea erosion in West coastal area particularly in Bengare village near Udupi and Honnavar; and

(c) if so, action taken by the Centre on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Sea erosion problem is encountered mainly in Kerala. It is also present to a lesser extent in West Bengal, Karnataka and other coastal States. The problem had assumed serious proportions in Kerala, where out of a total coast line of 560 km, as much as 320 km were subject to sea erosion,

prior to taking up of the protective works. The Central Government has set up a Beach Erosion Board to advise the State Governments on matters concerning investigations, collection of data, general design principles and construction techniques for anti-sea erosion measures.

(b) and (c). A scheme for the protection of National Highway No. 17 against sea-erosion in the 1400 metre length of coastline near Marvanthe was referred by the Government of Karnataka to the Roads Wing of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport in 1974. The Central Water and Power Research Station has been requested to conduct model experiments and offer advice on the protection measures to be adopted. The field data required for the model experiments is being collected by the State Government.

With regard to the sea erosion in Bengare village, the Government of Karnataka has informed that there is a problem of erosion at the confluence of Netravathi and Gurpur rivers near Mangalore which is affecting Mangalore port and other built up areas. However, no scheme concerning Bengare has been sent by the Karnataka Government to the Central Government. Regarding Honnavar, the Government of Karnataka has informed that there is erosion at the mouth of the Sharvathi river but, for this also, no scheme is reported to have been sent by the Karnataka Government to the Centre.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY:

Sir, I am not at all convinced with the statement laid on the Table of the House. The coastlines in various States particularly, in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Goa, Orissa and West Bengal have been affected by the sea erosion. In Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Madras, the beaches

have been affected by the littoral drifts in which the beach material is removed all along the coast because of the combined action of the wind and water particularly, the drift amounts to forty-two thousand tonnes in Cochin about two lakh tonnes in Mangalore and about one million tonnes in Visakhapatnam

The State Government is not in a position to meet the colossal problem and therefore it is the duty of the Central Government also. The Central Government should not evade the responsibility and say that they are not finding finances for this and they must receive the blessings of the Planning Commission. The question is whether the threats to coastline should be treated as a national problem or should be treated as a problem of the State concerned. My submission would be that the Central Government should determine the priority in this matter and the State Government should not be left alone to tackle this problem because they would not be able to do this.

I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of having any phased programme and whether the Central Government is going to take any measures to stop sea erosion.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA
The main problem of sea erosion has been in Kerala coast and already a lot of work has been done and the work is going on and the Central Government is 320 kms in Kerala coast and efforts are going on to protect the entire length. Out of that, 200 kms have already been protected, the work is going on and the Central Government has also provided funds for the same.

MR SPEAKER His question is whether you have got any scheme for the entire area.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA
There is no such scheme for the entire

area. We receive complaints from some places. We receive proposals and then we examine them.

SHRI T A PAI Sir, this is how the The West Coast, particularly the Bengare village near Mangalore has been facing this trouble of sea erosion, and it has assumed alarming proportions. About 3/4 of a square mile has been eaten away by the turbulent sea. When Mr George Fernandes and the Janata Party President Mr Chandra Shekhar went to Mangalore during the last Assembly elections the people of this area represented and submitted a memorandum if I am not mistaken. And further, the people of the this Bengare village boycotted the last election. A large number of houses and particularly the fish curing yard, were also threatened with extinction. Further they have been washed away by the turbulent sea. Under these circumstances, am I not justified in asking whether it is due to lack of any idea or foresight? I submit that immediate action must be taken. Otherwise, if the trend continues, this Bengare village near Mangalore will be washed away within 3 or 4 years. Under these circumstances, is the Government of India going to give any aid to the Karnataka Government in fighting this problem?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA
As I mentioned earlier, here is a problem, and this information regarding the Bengare village was given by the Karnataka Government. As my hon friend mentioned, there is a confluence of two rivers, and erosion in some areas has been going on. But we have not received any scheme from the Karnataka Government so far. When we receive it, we will surely examine it and give whatever help is necessary.

DR HENRY AUSTIN Every one of us knows the destruction caused to this country, particularly to the Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala areas by the killer-cyclone of

last year. Again, in the wake of recent monsoons, sea erosions have taken place in coastal areas, particularly in Kerala. The hon. Minister himself came last time and inspected the work being done there. Till to-day some temporary work has been done. Has the Government got a scheme to face this challenge, on the basis of a permanent scheme? I understand that in countries like Holland and Japan, certain modern innovative methods have been adopted and the problem has been met on a permanent basis. Every time this question is raised in Parliament the hon. Minister is heard to say that steps are being taken and that everything will be brought under control. The problem relating particularly to Kerala, has been brought to the notice of the Government; and in this House it has been raised during the last 30 years. But the problem still continues. Has the Government any scheme formulated on the basis of the modern technology available? If not, will Government consult some Governments like those in Japan, USA, Soviet Union or Holland and come forward with a massive scheme to be implemented on a war footing, to face this challenge?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA

The problem in Kerala was not an ordinary one. Such a problem exists, in the entire world, only at two places, i.e. in Kerala and at one more place. This problem has been under examination for the last about 20 years. Two American experts were engaged in 1963-64 to go into this matter, viz. Mr. Watts and Mr. Reynolds. They went into this matter in great detail. After that, in 1966 another Indian, one Dr. M. Manohar, an Engineer who had considerable experience in this line, also undertook a study. He went to other countries and studied there also. And that is why work has started on this. This is not a work of a temporary nature. A lot of money has been spent and is being spent on this work: about Rs. 28 crores have been spent and about Rs. 4½ crores are being

spent every year on this work and the work is going on at good pace.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T. A. PAI: Sir, this is how the Sea erosion becomes a problem of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. It only shows that the whole problem is being tackled on an *ad hoc* basis. So far as the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned, if a few fishermen's huts are washed away, perhaps they are concerned about it. Last year, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister about sea erosion in Karnataka and I had received a reply that the matter was left to the State Government and he did not know about it. Now the hon. Minister says, "It is only the Kerala coast that is affected." But the Kerala coast extends beyond Kerala and I know it is not a question of Bengalore village alone which is on the confluence of two rivers, but the entire coast of Karnataka is being affected by sea erosion. I do hope that the Central Government would appreciate that this is a problem of the whole nation and not of any particular State, and this problem should be faced squarely well before it becomes a more serious one than what it is today. May I ask the Government to see that it is not merely a problem of Kerala, but immediate relief is also given to the other States where the problem is serious, and it should not be left to the State Governments to submit their proposals, because they are most incompetent to handle this problem.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA

I was talking about sea erosion and not soil erosion, as my hon. friend has stated. Soil erosion is entirely a different matter; and about sea erosion also I referred to the problem of Kerala specifically because this is a strange phenomenon occurring only in 320 kms area of the coast of Kerala. This is a special problem for that place and a problem only at one more place in the whole of the world. The problem of Karnataka is slightly different; it is not on the same lines.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: By sea erosion, India is becoming smaller and smaller as it is eating away the land. When Mr. Y. B. Chavan was the Chief Minister of Bombay province, he tackled this sea erosion problem and saved Bombay city. I want to know whether a similar type of action will be taken by this Government in consultation with the Maharashtra Government.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: This is a suggestion for action.

Prices for Agricultural Products recommended by National Commission on Agriculture

*311. **SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Agriculture has recommended prices for the agricultural products such as wheat, rice and jawar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there has been any opposition from the agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). The National Commission on Agriculture was appointed to examine comprehensively the current progress of agriculture in India and to make recommendations for its improvement and modernisation with a view to promoting the welfare and prosperity of the people. The recommendations made by the National Commission on Agriculture relate to general policy and the principles that may be followed in formulation of policies in a time perspective of 25 years upto the turn of the century.

The Commission was neither expected to, nor they have recommended any prices for various agricultural products. Prices for various agricultural

products are recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission on a year to year basis.

श्रीमती मृगाल गौरे : ग्रह्यक महोदय, थोड़ी गलती हो गई है, मैंने एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइस कमिशन के बारे में प्रश्न किया था।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइस कमिशन ने इस साल के लिये प्राइसेस तय करने के बारे में क्या कोई फैसला लिया है ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : प्रश्न में गलती रह गई कोई बात नहीं, मैं आपका जबाब दिये देता हूँ।

यह जो धान की नई फसल आ रही है, उसकी प्राइस अभी तय नहीं हुई है, होने वाली है। पीछे जब गेहूँ की फसल आई थी, तो उस से पहले गेहूँ की प्राइस एनाउन्स कर दी गई थी।

श्रीमती मृगाल गौरे : हमेशा ही, हर साल के लिये जो प्राइस फिक्स होनी चाहिये वह समय पर नहीं होती है। जिन चीजों, धान धनाज के लिए हम चाहते हैं कि प्रोडक्शन बढ़ जाये, उनकी वाजिब प्राइस फिक्स होनी चाहिये, लेकिन यह फिक्स नहीं होती है, इस को लेकर किसानों में असन्तोष रहता है, क्या, इस बात की मंत्री महोदय को जानकारी है ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूँ कि जो इस में लिखा है, उस के साथ साथ और दूसरी प्लेज और सीडज के बारे में एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइस कमिशन ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : कुछ प्लिसज की प्राइसिज इस दफा मुकर्रर की गई हैं। जैसे, मूंग की प्राइस मुकर्रर की गई है ...