

Shri R.B.Mishra,
Minister, Community Development and
Panchayati Raj, Agriculture and
Labour, Orissa.

2674

Camp - Calcutta:
The 25th February, 1968.

Dear Mr. Masani,

As you know, Orissa is a land which is full of natural resources, in abundance, all over the State. But the sons of the soil yet remain poor due to non-utilisation of the Gift made by the Nature to the State. The natural resources remain only as buried treasures of earth. One such example of non-utilisation of natural assets is the continuous flow of the water of rivers spread throughout the length and breadth of the State. We have not been able to construct Dams across them to utilise the water in generating electricity and making our fields green. The cause of this is well imagined. Apart from taking up new projects, the Projects which have been half done even cannot reach completion due to scarcity of funds. The Salandi River Project, in the district of Keonjhar, over which the State Government have so far spent about Rs. 14 crores remain incomplete as yet. This Project is calculated to irrigate 5 lakhs of acres of land in Khariff and 2 lakhs of acres under Rabi programme in two of the major districts i.e., Keonjhar and Balasore of Orissa.

Dr. K.L.Rao, Union Minister for Irrigation, when he last visited Orissa suggested a via-media method of connecting the ^{proposed barrage} ~~the project~~

at Anandpur with Bidyadharpur at a distance of few miles to extend greater scope for production of more food stuff. As per his desire, the State Government have already furnished necessary data to the Irrigation Ministry in this connection. But as yet, we have not heard anything from them on the subject.

I would, therefore, request you to kindly exercise your good offices in this regard and convince the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission to extend their helping hand to the State Government for early completion of this incomplete project which would certainly yield extra grain worth about Rs.30 crores per year.

I hope you will please take pains for my State which is in the grip of chronic want for the last so many years.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

R/B
26.2.68
(R. B. Mishra)

Mr. M.R.Masani, M.P.,
Camp - Calcutta.