

MR. CHAIRMAN: On this very Special Mention, everything is suspended. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu); Sir, this Special Mention has taken 25 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the next Special Mention — Shri C. Ramachandraiah.

Aimatti Dam

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this very important question. Sir, Krishna river is the blood-line of Andhra Pradesh. It is not only a source of water, it is also a part of the culture of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, in 1977 the dispute of the riparian States of Krishna was settled by the Bachawat Tribunal. As per the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal award, Karnataka has been allocated 700 TMC and Andhra Pradesh 800 TMC. There is a particular basin called Upper Krishna in which Karnataka Government was permitted to utilise 160 TMC of water. Now they have been trying to utilise 428 TMC by constructing a project called Aimatti which has not been permitted by the Tribunal. Sir when the Government of Karnataka specifically requested to create an Ayacut under Aimatti, the Tribunal has categorically rejected the demand and they have gone on record saying that the Aimatti project is only a carry-over project of Narayanapur. Now, the effect of this project will be that the entire agricultural system needs to be changed in Andhra Pradesh. There will be a loss of 27 lakh MT of foodgrains per annum in Andhra Pradesh which costs Rs. 1,632 crores and a loss of 2,800 million units of power, which costs Rs. 550 crores.

Sir, the dispute has been there for the past one decade. We have been requesting the Karnataka Government umpteen number of times to provide hydrological feedback which is a precondition in the award but we are very sorry to observe that the Karnataka Government has not cooperated and we have been trying to get the information. Now, the project which has been permitted up to 412 metres, the Karnataka Government is constructing it up to 528 metres.

Sir, this will enable them to utilise 428

TMC. The reason that has been extended is that they shall not use even a drop of water more than 700 TMC allocated to the State. They say that the increase of Aimatti dam height up to 528 metres is solely for hydro-power generation. Sir, it is an accepted thing that irrigation should have the priority over the power generation. The grievance is with the Government of India, not just with the Government of Karnataka. It has abetted the Karnataka Government in going ahead with the illegal construction in Upper Krishna Project by allowing it to obtain the World Bank aid in 1989 and by issuing environmental and investment clearances to go ahead with the project; also, by providing Rs. 114 crores under the accelerated irrigation benefit programme, to complete the project. Sir, this is an award given by the duly constituted Tribunal on the subject. It should be honoured by the State. A riparian State, just because it happens to be the upper riparian State, is trying to utilise maximum water over and above what has been allocated to it. The entire irrigation system is going to be spoiled in Andhra Pradesh now. We have been appealing to our brothers in Karnataka but they are giving a deaf ear; it is to the total detriment of Andhra Pradesh that this project is being constructed. Unfortunately, the Central Government is also abetting. Karnataka Government is the perpetrator of this Constitutional violation and the Central Government is the abettor. Sir, we want to bring to this august House this fact so that this sort of a thing is arrested. Though there is no allocation of water to this project, the hon. House should observe that the Central Government has given loan. It has provided financial assistance. In this way it has abetted the Constitutional violation. This has to be stopped. We demand from the Government that the loan has to be taken back and all the clearances which were illegally given by the Central Government should be revoked.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. H. Hanumanthappa. *(Interruption)* I will call one by one.

Mr. H. Hanumanthappa ...*(Interruptions)*... You speak one by one...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka); Sir, one more Member wants to

associate *himself*...*(Interruptions)*... I will speak later according to the order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him finish so that I can meet their arguments. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY (Andhra Pradesh): We want the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bommai also wants to *speak* on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is also from Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*... Do you want to speak after all of them? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: I will speak after him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Yerra Narayanaswamy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, in any inter-State water dispute, the parties should abide by the order of the Tribunal. But, here it is a violation of the order of Tribunal. The Krishna Water Tribunal allocated 160TMC of water for Upper Knshna Projects in Karnataka State. The Government of Karnataka has taken up projects to store water to the tune of 428TMC for Upper Krishna Projects. This will affect the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. This is going to affect 32 lakh acres of land in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, below Almatti Dam Srisailem Project is there. The Nagaijun Dam is below it and then Parkasam Barrage is there. So, 32 lakh acres of land belonging to this Krishna basin area will be affected. The Karnataka Government is constructing the dam with a height of 524 mtrs. It impounds water to the tune of 400 TMC whereas it has been allocated only 160 TMC water. Sir, this is an inter-State water dispute. Therefore, they must abide by the award of the Tribunal. I request the Central Government to interfere because Andhra Pradesh is a lower riparian State. In order to protect this lower riparian State, the Central Government must ask the Government of Karnataka not to raise the height of the Almatti Dam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. अलादी पी. राजकुमार (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): सर, मैं आपके जरिए से एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ और आपसे रिक्वेस्ट करता हूँ कि आप सरकार को डायरेक्शन दें कि वह इमीडिएटली इस वर्क को स्टाप करें।

श्री सभापति: चेयरमैन कोई डायरेक्शन नहीं दे सकते। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

DR. ALLADI R RAJKUMAR: A direction can be given by the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman cannot give any direction. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P RAJKUMAR: Sir, there are precedents in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Chairman can give a direction. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman does not give any direction on administrative matters. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Sir, the Supreme Court has been given an assurance by the Government of Karnataka with regard to the second stage. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all rights. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, unfortunately, my friends are unable to substantiate as to what is the Constitutional violation. I thought that they will mention some articles, so I brought the Constitution with me to see whether Karnataka has violated any Constitutional provision with an abetment of the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: We have mentioned about the Tribunal award. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Mr. Narayanaswamy, you have not spoken this, but your friend has spoken this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I come to the main point. Sir, in their arguments they have not said as to what is the water utilised. At least, Ramachandraiah is fair enough to say that 800 TMC water was allocated to Andhra Pradesh and 734 TMC to Karnataka. He says that it is 730 TMC. The final award is 734 TMC and out of this 734 allocated to Karnataka so far we have utilised 382 TMC on completed projects, for on-going projects it is 241 TMC and for projects under construction the water utilised is 623 TMC. This is including 241 TMC for on-going projects. For 111 TMC we have sent a proposal to the Central Water Commission. This proposal is still pending. So, the total allocation

is 734 TMC—380 TMC for completed projects, 241 TMC for on-going projects and for 111 TMC we have sent a proposal. So, where is the question of taking away the water? We are not taking away any water. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry that I have not interrupted them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA (Karnataka): I request my hon. friends that they should not interrupt like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... When the Members from Andhra were speaking, we listened to them. ...*(Interruptions)*.... We kept quiet.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, this is the utilisation. We have not violated anything. We have not utilised even a single drop of water in excess to what has been given by the Krishna Water Tribunal. Sir, with regard to Alamatti I would like to say that its contemplated height was 519 mtrs. We propose to raise it just for some hydel power. We utilised the water found over and above for generation of hydel power and as a result, the water naturally goes to Andhra. We are not utilising it for irrigation and that proposal has been sent to the Central Water Commission, the Government of India and the World Bank. After studying all *our bona fides*, after studying all objections from Andhra Pradesh, the World Bank has sanctioned us money, the Central Government has given us money and the Central Water Commission has given us clearance. There is no violation at any stage. Neither were we against the order given by Tribunal nor are we against the order of the Water Commission, nor against the Constitution. This is the clear picture. Even otherwise, out of 734 tmc, we have so far covered only 623 tmc and utilised 392 tmc of water. But, still by 2000 AD, when the scheme becomes operational, we are entitled to 50% of the surplus water. After two years, we are getting more than 200 tmc of water again. So, there is no question of violation of the Constitution or of the Tribunal award. Sir, my friends are unnecessarily misleading the House.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI (Karnataka): It is unfortunate that Karnataka is being attacked by both our good neighbouring friends of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: You are buying enmity with your brothers.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Our good neighbours are taking advantage of the fact that Karnataka was divided into five States; part of it is in Bombay, part of it is in Hyderabad, part of it is in Chennai and part of it is in Mysore and only Kodugu was united in 1956 and by that time many things had happened. Now, coming to the Bachchawat Award, the award itself has done injustice to us. But, we have accepted the award and Karnataka has not violated a single clause of the Bachchawat Award. Sir, financially we are weak; therefore, we have not been able to complete the work for the last 20 years and utilise the 740 tmc of water allotted to us under the award, as has already been stated by Shri Hanumanthappaji. The other most important thing is, we have not been able to construct the dam to that height, as our friends are alleging. Even if you want to construct to the permitted height, it takes another two to three years. Clearance has been given by the Central Government, by the World Bank and it takes time. We are involved in financial difficulties but we will complete it. But the most important point is about part 'B' of the scheme where after 2000 AD, the surplus water will have to be shared by the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. When I was the Chief Minister, I suggested to the then Chief Minister and great leader of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. T. Rama Raoji, why not we sit now today and let us have our shares settled? I also said, instead of waiting till 2000 AD, if the Chief Ministers of all the three States can sit together and settle the issue, everybody will be satisfied and all farmers will be benefited. I also suggested that a meeting be called by the hon. Prime Minister with all the three Chief Ministers and consider sharing of the available water before 2000 AD in an equitable manner. I think, that will sort out the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Javare Gowda. You should finish in one minute.

SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Sir, please, I am a new Member. I have not spoken so far. I am a new Member.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Sir, I think, it is his maiden speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is only in association with the Mention.

SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Sir, neither am I going to create any problem nor am I going to provoke anybody. I am only going to present the facts, as I know before the House. Please allow me to speak for some time. Sir, this is the first speech I am going to make.

Sir, the Krishna river is the lifeline of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. As the senior Member, Boinmaiji, has stated, once upon a time Karnataka was a very prosperous State. It had been ruled by great kings like Krishnadevaraya and many other great dynasties. But, unfortunately in 1799, after the Fourth Mysore War, Mysore was cut into five parts for administrative purposes by the Britishers in order to pull down the strength of Mysore. After the reorganization of States in 1956, the State of Karnataka was formed by taking a part from Bombay, a part from Hyderabad, a part from Madras, and a part from Kodagu. Then, in 1956 or 1960, the State of Andhra Pradesh started the construction of Nagajunasagar Dam, Srisailem Dam and Other dams. At that time the tiny State of Karnataka was economically not so strong. It started raising objections, and making pleas to the Central Government that Andhra Pradesh is a mighty State, having a sound economic potential, and if they would draw more and more water it would be against the interest of Karnataka and Maharashtra. After a number of pleas, in 1973, it was proposed to appoint a Commission, that is, the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal. However, according to me it came into existence in 1977. After years of persuasion and deliberation the Central Government received a report from the Commission, allocating 565 TMC water to Maharashtra, 734 TMC water to Karnataka, and 800 TMC water to Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, here I would like to submit, through you, that due to constraints, Karnataka was not able to carry out the construction of the dam. After a number of pleas by the Government, the World Bank came up with financial help. And in the last 5-6 years, the Government has speeded up the matter as there is a time-bound

programme. Karnataka has to use the full water allotted to it, that is, 734 TMC by 31st May, 2000. If it is not able to utilize the full amount of allotted water by that time, it would lose its right to use the surplus water. The learned senior Member, Hanumanthappa, has stated that there is a part (b). What is in part (b)? Karnataka is entitled for 50 per cent of the surplus water. So, I would like to ask the Members from Andhra Pradesh, who raise objections here, have they taken permission from the Central Government for the Telugu Ganga Project? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Do not forget that your Chief Minister was also a part and parcel of it at that time ...*(Interruptions)*... All the four Chief Ministers and the then Prime Minister, Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, there ...*(Interruptions)*... Do not mislead the House ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: I am *not* misleading the House...*(Interruptions)* Did you take permission from the Central Government to open the Telugu Ganga Project ...*(Interruptions)*... My next point is ...*(Interruptions)*... I do concede that I will be the first man to distribute it equally ...*(Interruptions)*... Though I belong to Karnataka, if you prove that Karnataka is not right, I will plead for you. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are not different. My submission to the hon. Chairman is that Andhra Pradesh wants to knock out the snare of Karnataka. They want to put trouble and obstructions in the construction of the dam ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no Minister here, no Cabinet Minister. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right *(Interruptions)*

DR. EIPLAB DASGUPTA: Or is it 'bat two junior Ministers are equal to one Cabinet Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Javare Gowda.

SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Sir, that is not the matter. For the first time this has been raised in this House. They have taken matter

to the logical end in the proper place. What is that? They have filed a suit in Andhra Pradesh High Court challenging the correctness and the legality of the construction of the dam by the Karnataka Government. At the same time the Karnataka Government has also filed a suit. The matter has been admitted by the Supreme Court. As it involves two States, the matter is in the Supreme Court. As you know, the day before yesterday the Supreme Court had constituted a full bench to see as to what the legality is, or whether there is any violation on the part of the Karnataka Government.

Sir, one point which I want to make clear is that until now from Andhra Pradesh side no objection has come regarding the Award of Bachawat. They have not raised any objection to that. That being the case, it is the duty of the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Governments to honour the Tribunal Award.

On the basis of that Award, the Karnataka Government has not violated any order of the Tribunal. Moreover, the Karnataka Government has the right to increase the height of the dam up to 524 meters. It is not correct as stated by Shri Ramachandraiah that the Karnataka Government has constructed up to 528 metres. It is not correct. Karnataka has constructed upto 524 metres. My submission to the House, Sir, is that we are not at all violating, and as a matter of right, Karnataka has the right to use the water which is awarded by the Bachawat Tribunal. Thank You.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Kishore Chandra Deo. (*Interruptions*)

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR. Sir, he is misleading the House. The Karnataka Award is only for 518.7 metres. Now they have constructed 524 metres. They are misleading. (*Interruption*). Please see. (*Interruption*)

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO (Andhra Pradesh): I associate myself

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Shri Kishore Chandra Deo.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question before us is Almatti. It is not a question of Telugu Ganga or any other project. We from Andhra Pradesh are not denying the

rights of the people of Karnataka or their farmers to take their share of water. But, we also want to protect the rights of bur farmers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is common sense and anybody's knowledge that if anybody can knock out the share of somebody else, it is the people who are at the upper reaches who can cut-off the rights of the tail reaches. We in Andhra Pradesh are at the lower riparian height. They are at the upper reaches. I do not want to go into figures or percentages and get into any kind of complexities. That is not the question before us. Sir, the fact is the Tribunal is given a go-by. A fresh look will be taken in the year 2080. Until then no activity is supposed to take place which will prejudice any kind of Award which may come later. The question is not how many cusecs we have used and how many we will use later. Sir, the question is whether the kind of activity that the Karnataka Government has been indulging in, if tomorrow an Award comes in favour of Andhra Pradesh, will we be able to utilise it? Just a couple of years ago, one of the erstwhile Prime Ministers of our country, who belonged to that State bulldozed the heightening of this work. One hundred and eighty five crores of rupees were given by the Central Government to hasten this work at Almatti. Both the States have gone to the High Court and to the Supreme Court. Now, can you tell me whether the Supreme Court has given you permission to increase the height of the dam? Has the Supreme Court asked them to have a thousand mega watt project? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interfere. Let him say.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I sat silently listening to the Members. I did not interrupt them.

I would like to put this question. Did they get permission? Who gave them permission to raise the height? As my colleague was just now mentioning, originally, it was 518; now it has been raised to 524 metres. I do not want to enter into any arguments over petty things. But the fact is that after raising the height, Karnataka wants to have a 1000 MW power project over there. Once you have a 10(X) MW power project over there, a certain quantity of water would be stopped there; a certain quantity

of water would be stored there. If water is stored there, the farmers in my State would be denied their right of irrigating their lands. I want to be quite clear on this. I would like the Central Government to give an assurance that they would not allow the sluice gates to be fixed on the dam that has already been constructed. Secondly, the only way to stop this power project from coming up is to see that the Ministry of Environment and Forests does not give the clearance for having this 1000 MW power project over there.

Sir, this is a very, very sensitive issue for both the sides. I know that. I do not want to make allegations, or, indulge in mud-slinging. But these are the facts. The farmers in Andhra Pradesh are very much agitated over this issue. If this continues to take place, the Krishna Basin would go dry tomorrow. As you know, Sir, Andhra Pradesh is the rice bowl of the country. If this happens, the plight of the farmers, the plight of the people, in the State would deteriorate. It would, ultimately, lead to a very alarming situation. I do hope the Government would react and come out with a statement on this.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I want to have two assurances. One thing is that the matter is in the court. The Government of Karnataka had given an assurance to the Supreme Court that they would not go ahead with the construction of the second stage of the Almatti Dam, and they would confine themselves to the first stage of the dam. This is one thing.

Therefore, I request the Central Government, through you, Sir, to see that the Karnataka Government abides by the assurance it had given to the Supreme Court.

Secondly, Karnataka was sanctioned, under the Accelerated Irrigation Programme, a lot of funds for the construction of Stage-I. Unfortunately, they are misutilising these funds for the construction of Stage-II, which is quite illegal and undesirable. Therefore, Sir, I request the Central Government, through you, to see that the funds given for Stage-I is utilised for Stage-I only and not for Stage-II, which is illegal.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Karnataka Government had given an undertaking to the Supreme Court on 30.9.97 that they would not proceed with the construction of the project till October, 1998; that they would complete the construction before March, 1999. Following this, the Supreme Court deferred further hearing. Afterwards, the Deputy Chief Minister and the Irrigation Minister of Karnataka made provocative statements, saying that they had constructed seven gates. This was reported on 5.5.98 that they had constructed seven gates. They were going ahead with the construction of the project also. On this, the Andhra Pradesh Government wrote to the Karnataka Government on 11.5.98, seeking clarifications on the statements. Since no reply came, the Andhra Pradesh Government filed a contempt petition before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court was pleased to ask the Karnataka Government to file its reply within four weeks.

Therefore, Sir, I would request the Central Government to see that the Karnataka Government does not go ahead with the construction of the project because they had given a solemn undertaking to the court. The Karnataka Government is violating the solemn undertaking given to the court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri.D. Venkateshwar Rao. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, is it a Special Mention, or, a debate? (*Interruptions*)

डा. अलादी पी. राजकुमा: आप लोगों को किसानों का डर नहीं है ... (व्यवधान)... आप क्या चाहते हैं। ... (व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Basu, please sit down. This is a sensitive issue.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, my point is procedural. If we are going to discuss this issue, we have no problem. But it has to be a structured debate. It cannot go on like this, that whoever raises his hand, gets a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is noted structured debate. I know. But this is an emotional issue. That is why I want to give one minute to each Member. That is all right.

DR. ALLADI R. RAJKUMAR: Thank you, Sir.

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: I will not take much time, Sir.

Recently I visited two districts of Andhra Pradesh, the Guntur District and the Prakasam District. The people came to me and presented their problem. The people belonging to the Guntur District want that the Alamatti Dam should continue, and the people belonging to the Prakasam District do not want to have the Alamatti Dam. It is surprising that we are righting on having the Alamatti Dam. It is surprising that the Guntur people are asking for it.

There is a drain, by name, "Nallamara". The people of the Prakasam District are having about 10 to 15 irrigation schemes. They are lifting water from the drain for the last 30 years or so. The Government of Andhra Pradesh permitted the people of the Guntur District also to lift water from the same drain. So, they were constructing a small dam, about 10 feet, on the drain. The people belonging to the lower region, that is, the Prakasam District, could not get water properly. So, they were opposing it. The name "Almatti" has become very popular. It has become synonymous with "controversy." Later, what happened is that the lower people who could not get water, ultimately destroyed the dam. Then, they could get water. This is what has happened in Andhra Pradesh. Knowingly, the officials gave permission to the people from the upper district.

The same thing is here. They are raising the height of the Dam to about 524 feet. The actual height is supposed to be about 509 feet. A 1,000 MW power station is coming up. Naturally, they have to store water over there. About 22 lakh hectares of land is getting irrigated in the districts of Sreesailam and Nagajunasagar in Andhra Pradesh. Definitely they will get affected. Plantation is done normally in the month of June or July. They are going to stop water there. When will they release water? When they get electricity, they

will release water. What will happen to the 22 lakh hectares of land of the lower people who are cultivating it for all these years? Ultimately, it will affect the life of the people. This is a very serious problem concerning the Andhra Pradesh farmers.

So, what has happened in the Gunur and the Prakasam Districts is that they could not get water, and they went and destroyed the whole structure to get water. The same thing may happen here. If they do not get water for irrigating 22 lakh hectares of land, the same kind of feeling will arise in the hearts of the farmers, and they may resort to any kind of agitation in the near future.

So, I would like to urge upon the Government to take it seriously.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: That is provocative.

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: It is not provocative. What is provocative? This has happened there, and they have destroyed the structure.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: We are responsible people here. You should not provoke like that, talking about breaking the dam. You are giving the example of breaking the dam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, he has finished it now. We will take up the next item.

Replacement of eighteen existing nominees of I.C.H.R.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am raising this issue regarding a major national institution in our country, known as the Indian Council of Historical Research. It is an apex body for directing, promoting and guiding historical research in the country. This institution has a very rich tradition. It has national and international acclaim as a major institute.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair].

It had dedicated, non-partisan and very objective historians who were luminaries in their own field. It has an outstanding record in promoting research.

Recently, on the 1st of June, 1998, the