[Secretary-General]

(18) Shri P. M. Sayeed

(19) Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan; and

(20) Shri Sushil Chandra Varma

3. That the Speaker shall nominate one of the members of the Committee to be its Chairman.

4. The Committee shall start functioning from the day it is duly constituted.

5. That the Committee shall be provided all assistance by the Government and its agencies.

6. That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one hird tof the total number of members of the Joint Committee.

7. That the Joint Committee shall make a report to this House by the end of the next Session of Parliament.

8. That the Rules of Procedure of the House relating to Parliamentary Committee shall apply.

9. That the Committee may if the need arises in certain matters adopt a different procedure with the concurrence of the Speaker.

10. That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join e Committee and communicate to this House the names of the members appointed from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha to the Committee as mentioned above."

THE NATIONAL WATERWAY (KOLLAM-KOTTAPURAM STRETCH OF WEST COAST CANAL AND CHAMPAKARA AND UDYOG-MANDAL CANALS) BILL, 1992—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) Now, Mr. Hiphei. Not here. Then, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya. Not here. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, first of all, I would like to thank all the Members for supporting this Bill and for giving very useful information as well as suggestions. I can assure the honourable Members that our intentions are very clear and we would like to declare the whole West Coast Canal as a national waterway. But for certain reasons we cannor do it. Even if today I would have all the money which I require, technically it is not possible to do it to which I will come later on.

The National Transport Policy Committee has recommended declaring certain national waterways in the country as national waterways and they have laid down certain criteria. And, Sir, I would like to inform the House that in May, 1980, the National Transport Policy Committee had identified ten waterways for consideration as national waterways.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri H. Hanumanthappa) in the Chair]

They are: Ganga/Bhagirathi/Hooghly river, Brahmaputra, Sunderbans, West Coast Canal, Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi Narmada, Tapti, Mandovi and Zuari rivers and also Kumbher Chela canal in Goa. The honourable Member from Goa and some Members from Andhra Pradesh mentioned that we should have taken these also. I think, in the near future, we would be taking some of the other ten waterways which have been identified.

We have already declared two waterways as national waterways. One is the Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga/Bhagirathi/Hooghly waterways—1,620 kms., and the second is Saidi/Dhubri stretch on the Brahmaputra—891 kms. And, Sir, today when we are declaring the West Coast Canal system, we are taking up, out of the 628 kms., 168 kms. of Kollam-Kottapuram, Champakara—14 kms. and Udyogmandal—23 kms. Some of the honourable members from Kerala wanted to know why the whole West Coast Canal could not be declared as such. I would like to inform them that north of Kottapuram on the way to Mahe—242 kms., 50 per cent of the waterway is not having a width of more than 20 metres and there are no canals or

waterways for 18 kms. and not much cargo potential has been seen over 1.8 kms., and from Mahe to Kasaragod, the waterway is not continuous. There are no canals and waterways in a stretch of 54 kms. where cutting of laterite in the rocks is required for developing cargo potential and that too is not much. Even coming to South of Kollam, Kollam to Kovalam, 74 per cent of the waterways is not having a width of more than 20 metres and two tunnels of a total length of 1 kilometre. And there is not much cargo. And the total cost of the project is over Rs. 1500 crores. I don't think that at present the Central Government has this kind of money. But a proposal had come from the hon. Members: Why can't private people be involved? Our mind is very clear. And I can say in this House that if there is any party which wants to come they are welcome. I had met some very rich Keralites settled in Dubai who had shown some interest, and I had told them, "you please come, whatever facilities are required from the Central Government we are prepared to give you."

Sir, as a result of declaring the National Waterway No. 3, it is going to carry 303.5 million tonnes of cargo at the end of the Eighth Plan. And the people of Kerala will have the benefit of an additional source of transportation of goods which is cheaper, and with less pollution. And it could reduce their congestion on the road traffic. Development of tourist potential is there. There will be floating restaurants and river cruising, as the hon. Member has said. And also there will be employment generation due to construction of terminals, loading and unloading operations, boats and repair facilities, etc.

I would like to inform the hon. Member that as far as I am concerned, Kerala —of course, we like the whole country— is a beautiful State. And as far as my Ministry is concerned, we have projects worth over Rs. 1500 crores from the Transport Ministry which are going on. And there were quite a number of other projects which I had announced when I was in the State and when I was with the Chief Minister. And I would like to say that the waterways is not being neglected because, if you look at the outlay in the Seventh Plan, this has exceeded the outlay from the First to the Sixth Plan. And even in the Eighth Plan...

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Just a minute. What is the minimum width for a canal?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to tell you that it should have about 45-metre wide channel, and a minimum of 1.5-metre depth. That is the criterion which is set by the National Transport Policy Committee. That will only make eligible a canal to be declared as a national canal.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I am sorry, the Kanoli canal is only 30 mtrs. It is not 45 mtrs.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: It is 45-metre width...

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I am saying that it is only 30 metres. What you have got now and called as Kanoli canal is of 210 Kms., and the width is only 30 mtrs. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We can do the dredging and do it...

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: It is only 30 mtrs. So, it will never come under your scheme.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: As I said, if it comes under these ten schemes which I had announced, naturally money will be found whenever it is possible. It is not that my mind is closed. I have made this statement in the Lok Sabha also that wherever the economic feasibility is there we would like to do it. After all, this is going to be of great help to the country as far as the transport is concerned.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Central Government is encouraging part—subsidising initiative which has been given up to a difference of five and a half per cent of the bank rates for acquiring mechanical boats, etc. And any other help which the people like to have—my mind is open—if it is possible, we would be too happy to give.

There is the question of the Buckingham canal scheme which Mr. Narayanasamy has mentioned. A combined canal project was proposed for the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. But I am not happy to say that the Government of Tamil Nadu had refused to accept the project and fund it partially. But we would be very happy if you take it up with the State Government. And even if the private parties are prepared to come and operate it and build it and dredge it and do whatever is possible, we are prepared to give you all the facilities from the Centre that are required.

5.00 P.M.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the hon. Minister please explain whether the Government is prepared to consider the feasibility of floating a corporation like what they did so far as Konkan Railway is concerned?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: It is not a bad idea. I can talk to the officers and see if there is a possibility. This could be done.

I would like to inform Mr. Fernandes that dredging of the rivers Mandovi and Zuari is already in progress which is under the Centrally-sponsored scheme.

A very good suggestion has come from Mr. Ahluwalia that there is need to open a river management institution and need to provide more funds. Of course, for the funds, I hope the Finance Minister will have to provide the funds but I would take up this suggestion for opening of a river management institution.

I hope I have been able to satisfy all the Members.

SHRI VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): The question is:

> "That the Bill to provide for the declaration of the Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals to be a national waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said stretch and the Canals for purposes of shipping and navigation on the said waterway and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of

the Bill. Clause 2. There are two amendments, No. 3 by Mr. Rajgopal and No. 7 by Mr. Balaram. Are you moving?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: I am not moving my amendment in view of the amendment being moved by Mr. Balaram which is more acceptable to me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): But he is satisfied; he is not moving.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I am not moving but the Minister must consider it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): So amendments are not moved. I put clause 2 to vote.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Clause 3. There are two amendments by Mr. Rajgopal and Mr. Balaram. Are you moving? No, they say they are not moving. I put clause 3 to vote.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Clause 1. There are two amendments. Are you moving? They saly they are not moving. I put clause 1 to vote.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Fmula was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Long Title. There are two amendments. They say they are not moving. I put Long Title to vote.

Long Title was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Hon. Members, there are two statements on which clarifications are to be sought. There are 39 Members seeking clarifications.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: But there are not 39 Members in the House.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: But how many of them are seeking clarifications?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Some hon. Members have given their names in respect of both the statements. That is how it comes to this number. Even if minimum amount of time is taken, it is going to take a long time. Therefore, I would request hon. Members to be brief.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: One minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): If possible, within one minute. Let us be brief and let us not provoke each other so that we can complete it quickly. There should be only pointed questions.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: With the assurance that the Minister will also give a pointed reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): There is one more problem. As per the Agenda, we have the Half-an-Hour Discussion, listed

[Shri H. Hanumanthappa]

for 6 p.m. Therefore, let us try to complete this within one hour. The statements were made yesterday. If we do not complete it today, it won't look nice.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We will co-operate with you, Sir.

CLARIFICATIONS ON STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE. BOMB EXPLOSION IN A MOSQUE IN RAI BAREILLY, UTTAR PRADESH ON 3RD AUGUST, 1992

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मोहतरम, जो मिनिस्टर साहब ने स्टेटमेंट आया है, जाहिर है कि वही कहा जाएगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने जो इनफर्मेशन दी है, उसी की बुनियाद पर वह स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है।

तो मुझे लगता है कि अब तक उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के जरिए यहां जितने भी उसके स्टेटमेंट इस किस्म के मामलात में आये हैं, वह बहुत ही कनफ्यूजिंग रहे हैं और उसमें कुछ पता नहीं लगता है कि वह क्या कहना चाहते हैं और क्या बताना चाहते हैं।

राय बरेली का जो वाकया हुआ है, यह सोलहवीं सदी की मस्जिद है, जो एक बम के धमाके से फटी है। उसमें दो बच्चे मारे गये हैं और एक लड़की बराबर के मकान के अंदर जख्मी हुई है।

सबसे पहले तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि राय बरेली जो बहुत ही सेक्युलर किरदार का एक शहर रहा है, वहां पर कुछ दिनों से क्या फिरकेवाराना तनाव मौजूद था?

क्या यह बात सही है कि 17 जुलाई और 20 जुलाई को दो दिन वहां पर जुलूस निकले, जिससे काफी टेंशन पैदा हुई और फिर 31 जुलाई को बुरहाना के वक्फ के कब्रिस्तान की चारदीवारी के एक हिस्से को तोड़ा गया, जिससे टेंशन पैदा हुई और उसके बाद 3 अगस्त को यह बम फटने का वाकया हुआ?

तास्सुर ऐसा मिलता है कि मस्जिद के अन्दर बम फटा और कुछ लोगों से वहां तक इल्जाम लगाया है कि मस्जिद के बेसमेंट में बम था और वह फटा।

मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार वजाहत करेंगी कि बम एक्जक्टली किस जगह फटा (समय की घंटी) बेसमेंट में फटा था कहीं और फटा है?

दूसरी अहम बात यह है कि यह जो तमाम वाक्यात मैंने बताये, जिससे टेंशन डिवेलप हुई और 31 अगस्त को जिस कब्रिस्तान की चारदीवारी को तोड़ा गया, तो क्या वहां पर एक मखसूस जमात से ताल्लुक रखने वाला शख्स को, जिसका नाम नरेश कोहली बताया जाता है, क्या उस के खिलाफ एफ०आई० आर० दर्ज कराई गई? अगर कराई गई थी, तो क्या उसको गिरफ्तार किया गया था? अगर नहीं किया गया था, तो क्यों नहीं किया गया था?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : 31 अगस्त तो अभी आया भी नहीं है।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : 31 जुलाई।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : आपने अगस्त कहा।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल: शुक्रिया आपका। तो अभी जो मस्जिद वाला वाक्या हुआ है, इसमें भी जिसके दोनों बच्चे मरे हैं, वह दोनों सगे भाई हैं—नौ साल का और दस साल का, इनके बाप ने एफ० आई० आर० जिन लोगों के खिलाफ दर्ज कराई है, मेरी मालूमात के अंदर नरेश कोहली का नाम उसके अंदर भी शामिल है।