

to have an elected office bearer there, it will not hesitate to agree. Now it is going to be November, 1979. This is how they have restored democratic values! For two years the consideration is going on. He has to tell us very frankly how long he will take to consider it and when he will come to a decision. In reply to the last part of the question of Mrs. Soni, he said, "I do not know whether it will be favourable or otherwise. Sir, I am not interested in a favourable decision because the people there if they are determined, can force them for a favourable decision. They are building up such an organisation for that purposes because the Government has slept over it for two years. Therefore, I am not interested in the result but the consideration should be completed immediately. Are you going to expedite it? That is what I want to know.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: Primarily it appears that there is quite a lot of digression from the original question. The original question related to the Chairman being elected from out of the elected Members. Unfortunately, we have gone for and wide.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: The first part of the question is about the Committee.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: The question related to only the office of the Chairman. The main point is this. This is not a very new phenomenon. Right here in New Delhi, the entire New Delhi, Municipal Committee—the civic body—is nominated and it has been like that for decades. It appears that the hon. Members seem to be more concerned about what is happening in Port Blair and are not concerned about what is happening right over here. It would be very much appreciated if similar concern had also been expressed with regard to New Delhi. What I mean is I do not want to go about seeking shelter as hon'ble Ambikaji has said. In fact,

this question has got to be decided by the Home Ministry. But since I am a part of the Government I would like to tell you that we are considering some measures and methods to improve the situation.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन्, अभी कुछ दिन पहले हम लोग पोर्ट ब्लेयर गये थे। वहाँ देखा कि यदि ब्रिटिश राज्य के अवशेष कहीं देखने हैं तो वे वहाँ पर हैं। आज भी पोर्ट ब्लेयर वाइसराय का राज्य जैसा बना हुआ है। वहाँ पर लोकतन्त्र का थोड़ा सा ढाँचा यूनिसिपैलिटी में खड़ा होने की गुंजाइश थी। वह भी नहीं किया गया। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कितने नामिनेटेड मेम्बर्स हैं और कितने इलेक्टेड हैं और नामिनेटेड में से अफसरों की बीवियाँ कितनी हैं और अफसर कितने हैं? हम को पता लगा है कि अफसरों की बीवियों के क्लब बने हुए हैं।

श्री निन्दर बख्त : बीवियों के क्लब भी जरूर होंगे। कितने वहाँ गैर शादी शुदा अफसर हैं। और कितने शादी शुदा हैं उसकी फेहरिस्त मंगाने के लिए मुझे नोटिस की जरूरत होगी।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : ख़ातीन कितनी हैं यह तो बता दीजिए।

श्री निन्दर बख्त : ख़ातीन की तादाद मालूम करने के लिए मुझे नोटिस की जरूरत होगी।

राष्ट्रपति बाढ़ नियंत्रण आयोग का प्रतिवेदन

* 290. श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

श्री लखन सिंह :

श्री रिशंकर भाबड़ा :

क्या पुलिस और फ़िरोज़ी मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में बाढ़ों की रोकथाम के लिये उपाय

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Pershad Mathur.

सुझाने हेतु एक राष्ट्रीय बाढ़ नियन्त्रण आयोग का गठन किया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार को प्रति-वेदन कब तक दे दिये जाने की सम्भावना है ?

Report of National Flood Control Commission

♦290. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :† SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: SHRI HARI SHANKAR BHA-BHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Flood Control Commission to suggest measures to check floods in the country; and

(b) if so, by when the report is like-by to be submitted to Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Flood Control Commission is likely to submit its report to the Government of India by 31-12-79.]

@ [कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) आशा है कि राष्ट्रीय बाढ़ आयोग अपनी रिपोर्ट भारत सरकार को 31-12-79 तक दे देगा।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन्, बाढ़ आयोग की नियुक्ति की गयी है। उसके पहले आप ने कहा कि वर्ष के अन्त तक रिपोर्ट देगा। हर साल बाढ़ आती है। क्या उस रिपोर्ट के

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jag-dish Parshad Mathur.

†[] English Translation.

देने से पहले भी कमीशन ने कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं, जो इस साल खास तौर पर बिहार में, उत्तर प्रदेश में और दिल्ली में भी बाढ़ आयी थी उसने लिए कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं जो इस साल ही लागू कर दिये जायें जिससे बाढ़ की रोक-थाम हो सके।

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : इस साल के आखीर तक रिपोर्ट आयेगी। उससे पहले उन्होंने कोई ऐसे सुझाव नहीं दिये कि बिहार में इस तरह से लागू कर दिये जायें या यहां इस तरह से लागू कर दिये जायें। रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही कदम उठाये जा सकते हैं।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : दिल्ली के बारे में सिकन्दर बख्त साहब ने कहा कि हम लोग को फिक्र नहीं है। तो दिल्ली में पिछले साल बाढ़ आयी थी और इस साल फिर आने वाली है। उसकी रोकथाम के लिए कुछ गुंजाइश है या नहीं? क्या इस बार पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को अपने घर खाली करके शाहदरा जाना पड़ेगा?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : उसके लिए बन्दोबस्त किये जा रहे हैं। जो वुलनरेबिल एरियाज हैं, वहां फ्लड आने का खतरा है वहां बांध वगैरह तैयार किये जा रहे हैं और उम्मीद है कि बरसात से पहले-पहले यह काम हो जायेगा।

श्री हरि शंकर भाभड़ा : सभापति महोदय हर साल बरसात के बाद फ्लड्स की समस्या आती है और हर साल मंत्री महोदय का यही उत्तर मिलता है। चूंकि इस प्रश्न को और कोई रूप दिया नहीं जा सकता इस लिए बार-बार इसी रूप में यह प्रश्न पूछा जाता है। क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जब तक कमीशन की रिपोर्ट प्राप्त न हो तब तक इस सम्बन्ध में अलग-अलग राज्यों के लिए आपने अपनी तरफ से क्या योजनाएं रखी हैं इस साल की बाढ़ से बचने के लिए?

श्री सुरजित सिंह बरनाला : योजना तो असल में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को बनानी होती है, लेकिन हम यहां सेन्ट्रल लेवल पर इस सारी बात को देख रहे हैं कि कैसे इसके लिए कोई कामप्रीहेंसिव योजना बनायी जा सकती है। उसके लिए दो स्टेडी ग्रुप्स बनाये गये हैं और उनकी रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक दूसरी स्टेड्स में भी काम किया जायेगा।

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, on the question of floods, I should like to know from the Minister how much loss was due to the floods in our country last year. Floods are coming not only in summer or monsoon months but at any place and at any time. This is what happened in Tamil Nadu last year. Sir, floods are likely to take place just after this month, in the impending month of June. May I know, Sir, what steps have been suggested by him to the State Governments or what steps he has taken to prevent floods not only in Delhi but in all other States? And, secondly, information about the danger to the public to be given in advance so that floods do not affect their lives.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, if the hon. Member gives specific notice about any problem, then I would reply to it.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request the Minister kindly to recall that when this National Flood Control Commission was set up, he has indicated the time by which the Commission is expected to finish its work. I was a member last year in the wake of the West Bengal floods and when I inquired when a master plan for controlling floods all over the country would be prepared, he said that it was not possible to indicate the time. Now the urgency with which this National Flood Control Commission has undertaken its work has to be appreciated by us. So I would inquire of him as to when

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it was first set up and what are the terms of reference of the National Flood Control Commission.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, this Commission was formally inaugurated in December, 1976. Thereafter they started this work by sending a questionnaire to the State Governments. They formulated a questionnaire and sent it to the State Governments in May, 1977. Thereafter they thought that the questionnaire should be sent to Members of Parliament also. The questionnaire was sent to hon. Members of Parliament and also an advertisement was issued for eliciting opinion of the general public. They have collected information from all the sources I would say that hon. Members of Parliament did not take much interest. Only ten suggestions have gone from Members of Parliament out of such a large number. In spite of their anxiety about the floods every time, only ten replies have been received so far.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Terms of reference?

श्री भोला प्रसाद : सभापति महोदय, कुछ नदियां हैं जिन में बाढ़ नियन्त्रण के लिये आवश्यक है कि कोई स्थायी बाढ़ नियन्त्रण योजना अमल में लायी जाय इसके लिये नेपाल सरकार से समझौता करके वहां से जो नदियां निकलती हैं जैसे कोसी है, गंडक है, उनकी बाढ़ नियन्त्रण की जो योजना है उस पर अमल किया जाय। तो इसके लिये सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं। क्योंकि इस बाढ़ नियन्त्रण आयोग की रिपोर्ट मिलने के बाद भी नेपाल सरकार से इस सम्बन्ध में बात करके उस पर अमल करने में काफी विलम्ब होगा और बाढ़ तो हर साल आती है। तो अब तक इस दिशा में सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं और बाढ़ नियन्त्रण के साथ बिजली पैदा करने की भी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है या नहीं ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : जहाँ तक नेपाल का ताल्लुक है वह एक दूसरा राज्य है। उनसे बात चीत चल रही है काफी समय से। हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर वहाँ गये, उनके प्राइम मिनिस्टर यहाँ आये और उनकी आपस में बात हुई। हमारी तरफ से भी उनको लिख कर गया है कि बाढ़ रोकने के लिये मिल कर कुछ करना होगा। इसके लिये यत्न जारी है, लेकिन इसमें थोड़ी सी दिक्कतें हैं। जब दूसरे देश से कोई इस तरह की बात होती है तो दिक्कतें आती ही हैं, मगर कोशिश है कि उन से बात करके कोई ऐसी योजना बनायी जाय जिसमें ज्यादा दिक्कतें न आयें और बार-बार जो बाढ़ आती है उसकी समस्या को हम हल कर सकें। इसके लिये कोशिश हो रही है।

DR. BHAI MAHABIR: Sir, does the Kon. Minister concede the point or not that the question of floods has been with us, for long in any case since Independence came....

AN HON. MEMBER: Even before.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Even before that also, but our Government has been having to face the problem since it took charge. Every year the problem has been there. Floods have been coming, a lot of destruction has been taking place and the most that we have been able to do every year is providing some relief here and there to sufferers of this havoc. And the reason given every time is that we lack funds or comprehensively tackling of the problem. Sir, I wish to ask him if it is not a fact that the loss suffered is of the order of Rs. 200 crores to Rs. 300 crores every year—if my rough information is not wrong—and the relief measures cost a pretty sum so that over the years we have spent many times more than what would have been sufficient for a comprehensive flood control programme. Is there any assurance that this indecision and this lack of resources will not continue? Otherwise, what will happen is that even

after 10 to 15 years we will have to face a situation where we learn that we have spent much more than what we should have spent on one decision which would have solved the problem. Has the Government come to a decision that this! problem will not be allowed to linger on?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, as the hon. Member has rightly stated, flood control involves a lot of expenditure and it is not possible to say that within a year or two the entire problem of flood control in the country could be solved. No Government has such a huge amount of money to spend, but, all the same, a comprehensive plan has been prepared taking into consideration the various floods-prone areas and flood-prone basins. It is in the formulation stage so far. I hope an early decision on taking up the work will also be taken. But I would submit that it is not correct to say that no work has been taken up so far. Every year more and more areas are protected from floods by constructing new embankments, by constructing reservoirs, by constructing flood channels, etc. So every year some work is being done, but, all the same, sometimes the fury of flood is so much that it still causes a great loss.

DR. BHAI MAHABIR: Sir, my point is not that we have not done anything. We have done something in bites and the trouble is that, because we do it by bits, the problems keep on growing and the solutions keep on evading us. So I pointedly asked him that even when somehow we find resources for spending Rs. 200 crores or Rs. 300 crores or Rs. 400 crores every year, after ten years we will still be having the problem with us and we would have spent more than what would otherwise have been needed to tackle the problem. Is there some way out of this vicious circle?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, I have already stated that it is a very huge programme, but we are taking it up. This has to start from the catchment area, right from the mountains, because we have to create forests in those areas where rain is heavy just to avoid the rain-flow straight to the plains. That is being done. Then we have to check dams so that water does not flow immediately to the plains. Some engineering works are also needed. So it is a comprehensive plan that has to be taken up.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJIR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is common knowledge that floods are caused by heavy silting in the rivers and, therefore, the river beds are being raised every year in the rivers all over the country. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Commission has already studied this aspect and whether dredges are being used in the rivers to reduce the height of the beds in the rivers. I know that dredges are made in India but I wonder whether any of these dredges have been used in any of the rivers in the country; and if they are being used, how many, I would like to know.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, dredges were used in the Brahmaputra in Assam, but they have not proved very useful. They are being withdrawn even from that area.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Sir,, a team of experts of the Government of India visited UP. last year regarding flood control. Then we made a demand that we would need Rs. 500 crores for it. The first question I would like to ask is how much has been conceded. Secondly, there is some scheme for Allahabad, especially for raising the bund along the Ganges connecting the fort. Last year, Allahabad could be saved with great difficulty. Certain human lives were lost, but they could save the city. Then it was decided that the level of the bund should be

raised immediately. But nothing has been done so far. I would like to know whether the scheme for saving this holy city has been sanctioned and how long it will take for execution and whether it could be done before floods occur this year.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The question is regarding the National Flood Control Commission and not regarding the Allahabad embankment. I can answer that question if there is notice.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Not only in the Tennessee Valley but also in our own country damming of rivers or construction of dams across rivers as a flood protection measures, has been studied, and many of the disadvantages of damming of rivers have been seen. Therefore, there is one school of thought which proposes no longer cross-building or damming of rivers but building spurs from the sides so that instead of dredging, as the hon. friend was proposing automatically water-flow deepens the bed of the river and water, therefore, does not overflow and become cause of floods. Has any thought been bestowed on that?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Sir, damming of the river is still considered to be a good flood-protection measure, and so far as dredging is concerned, it has been considered that dredging is no solution to this problem.

♦291. (The Questioners (Shri Mdhendra Mohan Mishra, Shri Gian Chand to be and Shri Kalp Nath Rai) were absent for answer vide col. infra

Reconstruction of Taraqui-e-Urdu Board

*292. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the long delay in the re-constitution of the Taraqui-e-Urdu Board;