

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND  
POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):**

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) According to the revised project report for the Kabini Project (received in 1970) from the Government of Mysore, a total area of 6250 hectares comes under submergence of the Kabini Reservoir. Of this area 3623 hectares are cultivable.

In the Project Report a provision of about Rs. 2.5 crores has been made for compensation for the acquisition of lands and houses and resettlement of the affected people. The revised project has not been approved by the Government of India.

The Kabini River is a tributary of the Cauvery. There have been differences amongst the States in regard to the use of the waters of the Cauvery and its tributaries on projects already in operation as well as on proposed uses on projects taken up for construction or contemplated by the various States. The Chief Ministers of Kerala, Mysore and Tamil Nadu had held discussions in May, 1972 which revealed the general consensus that a serious attempt should be made to resolve the differences by negotiations as early as possible. There was also consensus that a Fact Finding Committee be set up to collect all the connected data pertaining to Cauvery Waters, their utilisation etc. A Fact Finding Committee was accordingly set up and it submitted its report in December, 1972. The Chief Ministers had a discussion on this Report in April, 1973. At the request of the Chief Ministers the Committee was revived to furnish clarifications after such verification as was found necessary. The additional Report of the Committee has just been received. As agreed to by the Chief Ministers, the discussion will be continued and the possibilities of arriving at a settlement explored.

**SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:**

Sir, according to the statement, when this project is completed, over 3,623 hectares of cultivable land in Kerala will be submerged. I understand that before getting clearance from the Central Ministry, the Mysore Government has gone ahead with constructing the dam and already quite a lot of good cultivable land in Kerala has been submerged. I would like to know whether the Government of India will see to it that until an agreement is reached on the question of sharing the waters of Cauvery between Tamil Nadu, Mysore and Kerala and also until the question of compensation for these 3,623 hectares of cultivable land is decided, the project is not taken up.

DR. K. L. RAO: 3,623 acres are the total cultivated area that is submerged. It includes both of Mysore and Kerala. The land that is submerged in Kerala is 103 hectares, that is, about 257 acres. And this project is not cleared by the Government of India. And definitely unless it is sanctioned no water can be impounded in this reservoir.

**SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:** They are constructing a dam.

DR. K. L. RAO: It does not matter. They would not allow water to submerge, the water to be impounded, unless it has been agreed upon. And for this, as the hon. Members are aware, there was a Fact Finding Committee appointed to get the data connected with the Cauvery dispute, and the Fact Finding Committee submitted a report just recently, two or three days back, and further negotiations will be held.

**Thein Dam Project**

\*536. **SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:†**

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:**

**SHRI A.G. KULKARNI:**

**SHRI J. S. TILAK:**

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:**

**DR. Z. A. AHMAD:**

**SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:**

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kali Mukherjee.

(a) whether the Thein Dam Project has been cleared by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** (a) and (b) The Thein Dam Project has not yet been cleared for execution. Matters relating to the sharing of the cost of the project and acquisition of lands that will be submerged are currently under discussion.

**SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:** When is it expected to be ready for execution?

**DR. K. L. RAO:** This project has been cleared from the technical angle. There are some inter-State aspects in it because a number of States are involved. We have been trying to do our best to get an agreement between these States. So far we have not succeeded and unless an agreement is reached between the various States or some alternative method is adopted, it will not be possible to take up the project.

**SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:** Do you agree with me that it is the most essential dam in that part of the country which needs to be cleared immediately and, if so, what steps are you going to take?

**DR. K. L. RAO:** It is accepted that it is a very useful project. It will serve to conserve water from going down to Pakistan and it will help in generating quite a considerable amount of power. Nearly 300 MW of power will be generated. And it is a useful project, especially in that area. And that is the reason why I appealed to various States to see that they come to an agreement and to see that the project may be taken up very early.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that much of the water in the country is flowing down to Pakistan because of the dispute between the States, and may I know whether it is possible for the Government to take over the project for exe-

cution immediately by the Government of India themselves so that there is no delay? And they can take some time in making the States agree, especially on sharing water and other expenses. But there should be no delay in taking up the execution. And if you take up the execution just now, I want to know whether the State will have any other objection to that. If not, why not take up the project? How long will it take, if you take it up just now?

**DR. K. L. RAO:** As I submitted earlier, this is a very useful project and should be taken up in the best interest of the nation. And what the hon. Member has suggested is a very useful alternative. And actually that has been one of the alternatives which we have been discussing, which we have been thinking over. The construction of the project itself will take about eight years, and discussions can be held meanwhile about the sharing of water and so on. So, what the hon. Member suggested is a very useful alternative and is under consideration.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** Sir, the hon. Minister said "if the States agree". The point is that the State Governments are run by the Congress Party, and the Central Government is also run by the Congress Party. So, is it that . . .

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Not always.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** . . . your party or your house stands divided and you cannot think of India as a whole? If so, why are you sticking to the post? Give it up. People will do it in their own way, if you make arrangements for that event.

**DR. K. L. RAO:** Developmental projects are not going to be decided on political considerations. Politics should be eschewed from our developmental projects. Of course, there are so many State Governments concerned with it. And naturally each State will get benefit for its own people. It is a democratic process and I do not think there is anything objectionable in each State trying to . . .

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: He would not understand the democratic process.

DR. K. L. RAO: Politics should not be brought into the picture at all when you are discussing a developmental project like this.

#### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AT UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS

\*537. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:†

SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN:

SHRI H. S. NARASIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned level-crossings, Zone-wise;

(b) the total number of accidents, Zone-wise, at these crossings and the number of casualties during each of the last three years; and

(c) the main causes of these accidents and the steps taken to man these level crossings to prevent accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) Twenty one thousand, six hundred fifteen 'C' Class unmanned level crossings—the railwaywise break up being as under:

Central	1014
Eastern	796
Northern	3200
North Eastern	1870
Northeast Frontier.	1370
Southern	3122
South Central	2048
South Eastern	3298
Western	4897
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21615</b>

(b)	Railway	Year	No. of accidents at unmanned level crossings	Killed	Injured
1		2	3	4	5
Central		1970-71	..	..	..
		1971-72	4	3	4
		*1972-73	2	5	5
Eastern.		1970-71	2	..	7
		1971-72	3	6	2
		*1972-73	..	..	..

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kali Mukherjee.