

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED BURSTING OF THE  
CHIKKAHOLE DAM NEAR  
CHAMARAJNAGAR, MYSORE**

SHRIMATI SITA DEVI (Punjab): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the reported bursting of the Chikkahole Dam near Chamarajnagar, Mysore, on December 8, 1972, resulting in the death of ten persons and serious damage to the surrounding areas.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJNATH KUREEL): Sir, The Chikkahole Project on the Chikkahole river, a tributary of Su-varnavathi in Chamarajnagar Taluk of Mysore district was completed during the year 1968-69 at a cost of Rs. 904 lakhs. It consists of a masonry dam of about 560 metres length and a canal on the left bank to irrigate an area of 1600 hectares (4000 acres). The reservoir has a capacity of 10 million cubic metres (350 million cubic feet).

During the cyclonic storm which crossed the southern Peninsula between December 6 and 8, heavy rainfall occurred in the catchment of the dam. The dam breached at 11 AM on December 8 in a length of about 30 metres and to a depth of about 12 metres. The reason for the breach is yet to be established. The sudden outbursts through the breached portion washed away the road bridge downstream. About 7 villages were flooded. The Yelandur town was inundated to a depth of about 1 metre. 5 people are reported to be missing.

The State Government took up necessary relief measures in the affected areas. The detailed assessment of the

damage including the damage to the dam is yet to be done by the State Government.

श्रीमती सीता देवी : श्रीमन्, ये जो लम्बी-चौड़ी स्टेटमेंट मिनिस्टर साहब ने की है, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह कोई साधारण बात नहीं है कि करोड़ों रुपये के बांध हों और जहाँ कि बड़े बड़े इंजीनियर, फारन रिटर्न हों, बड़े बड़े यंत्र लगे हों और जहाँ पर यह पता भी लग सकता हो कि बाढ़ आने वाली है, इतने घंटे में फलां जगह पर पहुंचने वाली है और इतने वैज्ञानिक साधन हैं कि उनको रोका भी जा सकता है। फिर भी आपने कहा कि 5 व्यक्ति मारे गये हैं जब कि टाइम्स आफ इंडिया के कल के अखबार के पेज 7 पर आपने पढ़ा होगा, उन्होंने कहा है कि 10 व्यक्ति मारे गये हैं और 33 गांवों में 15 हजार व्यक्ति एफैक्ट हुए हैं और उसके 3 पोर्शन बिलकुल ही वर्स्ट हो गये हैं और उस बांध के डिवीजनल आफिसर श्री बलराज ने अपनी प्रेस कंफरेंस में कहा है कि 2 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हो गया है और इसका कारण अभी तक मालूम नहीं। पब्लिक वर्क्स मिनिस्टर वहां गये, उन्होंने भी कुछ रिलिफ भी दिया है और शायद उन्होंने लिखकर भी मिनिस्टर को भेजा कि दो सौ फीट बांध का हिस्सा बिलकुल ही बह गया और 3 हजार मकान और दुकानें एफैक्ट हुई हैं। 600 जानवरों का पता ही नहीं कि वे बेचारे मर गये या बह गये, 800 टैंक टूट गये हैं। इन्होंने कहा है थोड़ी सी जमीन, पर असलियत यह है कि 3700 एकड़ जमीन एफैक्ट हुई है।

श्रीमन्, जहाँ बाढ़ के कारण इतना बड़ा नुकसान हुआ हो, मैं समझती हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट को बहुत बड़ी इक्वायरी करनी चाहिए और जो कंसल्टिंग आफिसर हैं, बड़े बड़े टेकनिकल और दूसरे आफिसर, उन पर ऐक्शन

[श्रीमती सीता देवी]

लेना चाहिए। इस किस्म के बांध जो इसलिए बनाये जाते हैं कि हमारा जलखेज होगा, बिजली निकलेगी, पानी होगा, खेती होगी, वहाँ पर इस किस्म का नुकसान हो, मैं समझती हूँ कि बिलकुल स्पष्ट बात है कि यह वहाँ के आफिसर्स की गलती है, उन्होंने अपनी ड्यूटी पूरी नहीं की, नेगलेक्ट की। इसके लिए जो भी रिस्पांसिबल हैं उन पर पूरा ऐक्शन होना चाहिए ताकि आगे इस किस्म की बात न हो सिर्फ करोड़ों रुपये के नुकसान की बात नहीं है, जानें गई हैं, इतने शहर एफैक्ट हुए हैं, लोग एफैक्ट हुए हैं, बहुत से जानवरों का नुकसान हुआ है, इसलिए गवर्नमेंट को इसके ऊपर जो दोषी हैं, ऐक्शन करना चाहिए।

श्री बंजनाथ कुरील : डिप्टी चैयरमैन महोदय, यह सही बात है कि नुकसान वहाँ पर हुआ है। लेकिन यह बांध कोई बहुत बड़ा बांध नहीं है। इसकी मिचाई का एरिया 4000 एकड़ है और जो बांध का भाग टूटा है उसका लम्बाई 30 मीटर है, गहराई 12 मीटर है। उसके टूटने का मुख्य कारण क्या रहा है पानी भर जाने से वा कमजोरी से, वह मैं इस वक्त नहीं कह सकता। उसकी तो इन्क्वायरी प्रान्तीय सरकार करा रही है। उसके बाद ही पता लगेगा कि क्या उसके टूटने के मुख्य कारण थे।

जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है और इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है, इन्क्वायरी तो तुरन्त हो रही है। उसके बाद जो मुख्य कारण पता लगेंगे वह बताये जा सकेंगे। इस वक्त मैं उन सब कारणों को बता नहीं सकता क्योंकि इन्क्वायरी अभी होनी बाकी है। इसके अलावा कोई मुख्य प्रश्न नहीं है।

जहाँ तक जिम्मेदारी का सवाल है, इसमें कोई दो रायें नहीं हैं कि इस तरह के जो बांध होते हैं उनको बनाते वक्त भी

बहुत ध्यान रखना चाहिए और उसके बाद भी उनकी सुरक्षा का पूरा ध्यान रखना चाहिए और मैं समझता हूँ कि प्रान्तीय सरकारें उसके ऊपर जो कार्यवाही है वह करेगी।

श्रीमती सीता देवी : मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह जो कहा है कि वह नहीं बता सकते कि क्या कारण है, पानी ज्यादा भर गया, ज्यादा आ गया इसलिए बांध टूटा और यह कोई बड़ा बांध नहीं है। मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि पानी ज्यादा आ गया, एकदम तो आ नहीं गया। ऐसे बड़े बड़े यन्त्र हर एक बांध पर लगे हुए हैं जिनको कई घंटे पहले सूचना होती है कि यहाँ पर इतना पानी आ रहा है, वहाँ पर निशान लगे रहते हैं, इस निशान तक पहुँच गया, इस निशान तक आयेगा तो खतरा पैदा होगा। तो जब हर किस्म के इन्वियमेंट लगे हुए हैं तो वहाँ के अधिकारियों ने उम पानी को रोकने का प्रबन्ध क्यों नहीं किया? बाकी उन्होंने कहा है कि चाहे छोटा हो, चाहे बड़ा हो, पब्लिक प्रापर्टी, पब्लिक की चीजें हैं, उन पर पूरी तरह से ध्यान होना चाहिए।

श्री बंजनाथ कुरील : पानी तुरन्त आ गया, साइक्लोन की वजह से। साइक्लोन स्टार्म जो हुआ उसकी वजह से पानी एकदम आ गया और उसको नहीं रोक सकते थे। यह ठीक है कि यन्त्र हैं, उनसे पता लगता था, कि साइक्लोन आने वाला है, लेकिन इस जगह हिट करेगा और वहाँ भी पहुँचेगा, इतना ज्यादा एक्यूरेट नहीं थे। पानी अभी रोकने का और तरीका नहीं। तो जो कुछ सुरक्षा के प्रावधान उसमें लगाये जा सकते थे, वह तो उन्होंने किया ही था, पर साइक्लोन की रफ्तार बहुत ज्यादा होती है। इसलिए यह कहा जाना कि कोई उसका ध्यान नहीं दिया गया, यह तो मैं नहीं कह सकता, ध्यान जरूर दिया गया होगा।

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA (Mysore): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the bursting of this Chikkahole Dam has caused the death of ten persons and also heavy loss to the people there who are suffering terribly. The way the Minister was replying it looks as if they are treating this matter in a very casual way. It is very necessary that the State Government should not only take immediate action to look into these things but also the persons concerned for this must be punished. Added to that it is also necessary that relief measures and other help must be given to these people who are suffering. The performance of our Government in alleviating the sufferings of the people in the drought-hit areas has not at all been satisfactory and so I am suggesting to the Central Government that they should look into these things and give them the necessary help and also the necessary guidance and warn the State Government that they should see that things are done at the earliest stage. Sir, I must take this opportunity to say a few words about these things. The bursting of dams has become a common feature. We have also to take into consideration the bursting of the tank bunds and we have been seeing throughout the year millions of people are suffering because of these things. I must also say that this drought has become cyclic in nature and that has some effect in these things because these tank bunds get dried up completely and when storms, heavy rains and floods come naturally they have their own effects. As I said the replies given are very casual and these things are not at all taken seriously. The seriousness of the situation has not been grasped at all. That is why I say and I emphasize that this is a social problem and this is a national problem also. Millions of people suffer every year and we are not taking preventive measures and we are not setting right these things. We take pleasure in just

laking half-hearted measures and doing patchwork jobs. This is not the way at all. All this affects food production, it affects the welfare of the people, of millions of farmers in the country. So a real and a lasting solution has to be found for all these things. Are the Government thinking on these lines? Suggestions have been given from outside as well as in this House that a survey should be made by the State Government in regard to these things, when these dams were constructed, when these tank bunds were constructed, what is the capacity of these things, whether they will withstand the pressure of such storms and floods, etc. The Government here should feel that this is a national problem. It should not merely leave it to the State Governments. It is not the responsibility of the State Governments alone; it is the responsibility of the Central Government also to look into these things and find a solution for this national problem. For that it is necessary that a special committee, a technical committee, a high-powered committee should be appointed at the Central level and they must get reports from the States. They should themselves look into these things and remedies must be found and not only preventive measures but permanent measures should be taken so that such things do not occur again. May I know whether you have started thinking on these lines, whether you have taken any measures and what measures you have actually taken and whether you have called for any report? I once again ask you to get another report from the State Government and see whether they are doing their duty properly.

SHRI BAIJNATH KUREEL: It is unfortunate that this has occurred. I have already stated that the State Government is making enquiries immediately and after that we will know what

[Shri Baijnath Kureet] were the defects and what was the reason for the bursting of this dam. It has also been reported that they have taken immediate measures for giving relief to the sufferers and fully assess the damage and loss to property and life. We are also thinking of sending our officers there to see on the spot what is necessary and what was the main reason for the bursting of the dam. For this purpose we are thinking of sending a team.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: He has riot answered one specific question I have put, namely, whether the Government are thinking on the lines that it is a national problem, and a committee should go into it. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That does not arise strictly from this.

SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY (Mysore): I thank Shrimati Sita Devi for having called the attention of the Government to this matter of public importance, though she is not coming from Mysore State. We read the weather forecast in the papers and we heard it from the AIR. It was given on the previous day itself. We also learnt from the press report that there was a leak in the bund since one or two years. May I know from the Government what action the Government or the concerned department took to plug this leak or what preventive measures were taken to avert this disaster when a flood was expected? We also noted from the press that the en-gineer-in-charge of maintenance was not diligent and he did not take proper action to open the flood-gates before the flood. I also hear that the affected villagers down-stream have not been given sufficient relief so far and there are so many cases of death among men and cattle. The correct figure is also not known. May I know from the Government what immediate relief

measures have been taken and what steps they are going to take to repair this dam because that area is subjected to drought also?

SHRI BAIJNATH KUREEL : About the leakage, I have no information. About the gates I have also heard it, but it is not confirmed by the State Government. We are thinking of sending our team. They will enquire into all these things. Regarding relief it is reported that they are taking immediate steps and adequate steps to give relief to the sufferers.

SHRI H. S. NARASIAH (Mysore): Apart from this Calling Attention, there has also been a Calling Attention Motion in the State Legislature. A committee has been constituted to go into extensively into the damage and destruction that has been caused. Apart from all this *post-mortem* that we are conducting, may I know from the hon. Minister what was the age of this dam, what was its condition prior to this accident and what precautionary measures have been taken by the local Government to see that such a catastrophe does not recur? I would very much like to know the age of this dam and the periodical steps taken to sustain it by the local Government.

SHRI BAUNATH KUREEL: The dam was completed in 1968-69 and it is not very old. Measures which are usually taken for safeguarding these dams were permanently taken.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I am sorry, and I am constrained to remark that the Ministers reply to Shrimati Sita Devi's Calling Attention Motion is not one of a repsonsible person. His remark was that the direction of the cyclone was not known. I hope the Minister reads, the papers at least. Scientific development has taken place in the country and nowadays the direction of the cyclone is given by the Meteorological

Department. But there is a case where the cyclone was coming, but no warning was given. And the Minister gives the plea that within two or three minutes the cyclone came and the warning was not possible to be given. The cyclone comes from a far off distance, it does not evolve itself within the dam site. It does not take place like this. Certainly, the area could not be inundated within minutes.

I remember in 1968 there was a breach in a dam in the Jalpaiguri District and the persons responsible in the administration, they did not give any warning. As a result, hundreds of people were killed by the breach in that dam because of a cyclone there. But the warning was given by the Meteorological Department about the source from which it was coming, and the source was Kalimpong. From Kalimpong it was coming towards Jalpaiguri District. I know, political parties and their leaders, all of them informed to the District Commissioner that there was a breach in the Dam and that he should take care of the people who were living adjacent to the dam. But no care was taken. Here also, I do not understand why one minister shields the criminal activities on the part of the administration there.

The Mysore Chibbahole Dam was built in 1968-69. In the paper it has come. And one of our friends has already mentioned that there was a leak which was noticed even before this cyclone and yet no action was taken to plug that.

Thirdly, how is it that a dam constructed in 1968-69 was not even cyclone-proof? Even if the water level goes up, there are some remedies at least to the people living around the dam. What action was taken? Now, the minister is waiting for the report of the State Government. But he has al-5—17 R.S/72

ready given to the House some information about the sudden coming of the cyclone within two or three minutes and that the direction of the cyclone was not known, that it came so suddenly and that the water level went up so suddenly that nothing could be done. So he gives his own version and that is only to shield the officers and the administration. I think the Minister should have told us that I am not aware of the total report now. Instead of shielding the officers, you could have really admitted it. I do not understand why an expert committee has not yet been sent to that dam site which would have actually seen what has happened. The report is that ten people have been killed. But your report is that five have died, and it is the report of the State Government. There should be some responsibility on the part of the Central Government also. I want to know what steps you have taken from here, apart from what the State Government is taking now. What about the relief given, and to what extent, we have not been told. What is the amount of the relief given, actually how many people have been affected and affected in what way? Those details should also be given to us. A dam constructed in 1968-69 gets breached in 1972, within three years, which is a very serious matter. And generally what happens is, these officers give the job to the contractors. And from the contractors they get something. Whatever they do, the inspection is done in a most negligent way so that the contractor can get away with impunity.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: May I know whether it was constructed by the department itself or whether for the erection of the dam it was given to the contractor under the supervision of the Department. If that is so, will the Government prosecute that contractor as also the officer in charge?

SHRI BAIJNATH KUREEL: I have already stated that about the leakage we have no information. There is no question of shielding anybody. I have already stated that we are intending to send our team and they and the State Government will enquire, and if anybody is at fault, of course, action will be taken against him. I did not say that the direction of the cyclone was not known. I said that the sudden outflow of water could not be checked. Presently it is an assumption only. Actual things will come out when the enquiry is made.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA (Nominated) : In the matter of construction of dams, whether they are in the Central sector or the State sector, may I know whether visibly or invisibly your Inspectors go round and just have a look at them. The Centre must have simultaneous look at the dams built in the State sector because if the dam fails the Centre has got to look after it. The last Ministry scandalously built the Sharawati dam in collusion with the contractors. I want to know in what way these dams were defective. The horse has run away and the cart is left behind. So it is no use going after the contractors after the dam is broken. So will you look into this of your own accord and suggest what was wrong with its construction or was it damaged due to cyclone?

SHRI BAIJNATH KUREEL: Actually these irrigation projects are State projects. We also get the report. And if there is anything wrong our officers can give suggestion.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Officers go after the incident. His question was whether, as a rule, the Government will send their experts after the construction of the dam to see whether it is built on the basis of the plan.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has understood the point.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: But he has not replied.

श्री एन० एच० कुम्भारे (महाराष्ट्र) : श्रीमन्, इस बांध के अकस्मात टूट जाने से जान-माल की बहुत बड़ी हानि हुई है। मरे खयाल से हमारे यहां के कुछ बांध बहुत पुराने हैं जो अंग्रेजों के जमाने में बने थे। तो यह बहुत जरूरी है कि उनका पीरिओडिकल इंस्पेक्शन किया जाय और अगर उनको दुरुस्त करने की आवश्यकता है तो वह भी करना चाहिए। तो क्या गवर्नमेंट की कोई ऐसी योजना है जिसके मूलाविक जितने पुराने बांध हैं उनका थोरो इंस्पेक्शन किया जाय और उनको मजबूत बनाने के लिए मेजर रिपेयर्स की जाय ?

श्री बंजनाथ कुरील : माननीय सदस्य का सुझाव अच्छा है और हम लोग उसके ऊपर ध्यान देंगे... जो यह बांध टूटा है यह पुराना नहीं था लेकिन जो नेचुरल केलमिटीज होती है उनमें नए बांध भी टूट जाते हैं और पुराने भी टूट जाते हैं, कोई बहुत मजबूत होता है और कोई सोच नहीं सकता कि वह टूटेंगा लेकिन धक्का इतना होता है कि—वह भी टूट जाता है।

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, काफी देर से माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर सुन रहा हूँ। इन उत्तरों से लगता है कि माननीय मंत्री जी को उस दुर्घटना से किसी प्रकार की कोई वेदना नहीं है। 10 आदमी मर गए हैं, बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र उससे प्रभावित हुआ है और इस प्रकार हल्केपन से उत्तर दे रहे हैं जैसे किसी प्रकार का प्रभाव सरकार के ऊपर नहीं है। 8 तारीख को यह दुर्घटना हुई है और आज 14 तारीख है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ सरकार से कि इन 6-7 दिन के अन्दर क्या आपने किसी एक्सपर्ट को वहां भेजा है यह मालूम करने के लिए कि ऐसा क्यों हुआ है, आपकी तरफ से कोई आफिसर्स गए या नहीं गए हैं ? आपने

यह भी बताने की कृपा नहीं की है कि वहाँ के लोगों की जो क्षति हुई है उसकी पूर्ति आपने किस हद तक की है। इसका स्पैसिफिक रिप्लाई चाहिए।

**श्री बंजनारायण कुरील :** यह कहना तो मुनासिब नहीं है कि हम लोग इस जो बहुत हल्केपन से ले रहे हैं। मुझे भी उतनी ही वेदना है और उस से कहीं अधिक वेदना है जितनी वेदना कि माननीय सदस्य को है, परन्तु जो वास्तविकता है उस को बदलना या उस को बढ़ा चढ़ा कर बताना इस को मैं आवश्यक नहीं समझता हूँ। जहाँ तक टीम भेजने की बात है, मैंने कहा कि हम ने अभी तक कोई टीम नहीं भेजी है, लेकिन हम एक टीम भेजना चाहते हैं। अभी तक हम उन की रिपोर्ट का इंतजार कर रहे हैं और रिलीफ को वह पूरी दे रहे हैं। अगर उन के यहाँ से रिलीफ में कोई कमी होगी और वह कहेंगे कि हमारे पास और साधन नहीं हैं और उन के कारण अगर वह रिलीफ पूरी नहीं दे पायेंगे तो सेंटर में भी प्रविधान है और यहाँ से भी जो फाइनेंस कमीशन की रिपोर्ट है उस को ध्यान में रखते हुए सेंटर से भी रिलीफ दी जा सकेगी और इस में कोई दो रायें नहीं हैं।

**FIFTY-SECOND REPORT OF  
THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
COMMITTEE (1972-73)**

**श्री श्याम लाल यादव :** मान्यवर, मैं आपकी अनुमति से सुपर बाजार, नई दिल्ली के संबंध में लोक लेखा समिति के दसवें प्रतिवेदन (1971-72) में अन्तर्विष्ट सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही के संबंध में लोक लेखा समिति (1971-73) के बावनवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ। [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4053/72.]

**EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRE-  
SENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT  
COMMITTEE ON THE HOMEO-  
PATHY CENTRAL COUNCIL BILL,  
1971**

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I move :

That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Homoeopathy Central Council Bill, 1971, be further extended up to the last day of the Eighty-third Session of the Rajya Sabha

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

**MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA**

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1972

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Industrial Development Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1972, as passed by Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 12th December, 1972."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

**THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AM-  
ENDMENT) BILL, 1972**

*(Motion for reference to Joint  
Committee)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code be referred to a