

ing to take the time of the House any more now. I would only say this Minister of State in the Ministry of Industrial Development does not possess the references to the answers previously given by the then Minister of Industrial Development.

SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA : I will collect the information from the various Ministries.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : If we go into the industrial expansion of this country, it has been mostly with the assistance of the U.S.A. who have contributed to the extent of about Rs. 7600 crores in the shape of loans and aid, whereas Russia has contributed only to the extent of about Rs. 1000 crores odd. So, is it in the interests of this country to increase the number of delegations from Russia to this country? Is it done with any ulterior motive? Is it to spread their ideology in this country, or is it for the growth of this country that these delegations do come from the USSR?

MR. CHAIRMAN : A very clear question.

SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA : Should I reply to this question? Whatever is consistent with our policy is acceptable, and from whatever quarters it might come, it must be consistent with the policy that we have adopted.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : But this was not the policy of the great Nehru.

CONFERENCE OF THE STATE MINISTERS OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

*294. **SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE :**†

SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of **IRRIGATION AND POWER/ सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री** be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question No. 530 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th November, 1970 and state :

(a) whether the Committee set up by the Conference of the State Ministers of Irrigation and Power has since completed its inquiry into the causes of floods in the country ;

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

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted any report; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the time by when the report is expected?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND
POWER/ सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्रालय में उप-
मंत्री (SHRI BAIJNATH KUREEL) :**

(a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The report of the Committee is expected by the end of this year.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKH-
ERJEE :** Sir, the Committee was set up in the last week of September, 1970. May I know, Sir, from the Minister whether any time limit was fixed in the terms and references of the Committee while it was set up and, if so, what was the time limit and whether the Committee has exceeded that time limit and is taking undue time to submit its report?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, no time limit was fixed but we expected this Committee to report as early as possible. In this particular case the difficulty has been that the Committee is trying to inspect all the areas. Their main function is to find out why so many lives have been lost in the last monsoon, in the 1970 monsoon. Very many lives had been lost at that time and it would be very difficult to answer why it happened unless they go round the sites and inspect them. So they have decided to inspect those sites. That is why there is delay.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKH-
ERJEE :** Sir, the Committee set up in the Conference of the State Ministers had two aims, one, to examine the cases and, another, to suggest the remedial measures in that connection. May I know from the Minister whether the representatives of the West Bengal Government suggested that, in order to take up the Master Plan of the North Bengal rivers, a joint conference should be held along with the representatives of Assam and West Bengal Governments and, if so, whether this Committee was authorised to take up that matter?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, this Committee is intended not to study the flood problem in general but to study the floods occurring in that particular area,

and as I have submitted already, a very large number of lives have been lost in the 1970 monsoon floods; as many as 1071 people lost their lives.

Therefore, the Minister said that, as a special case, we have to find out why so many lives have been lost. They wanted to analyse that particular point in that year and it is not a part of the massive plan of the whole country. West Bengal is also represented by the Minister on that Committee.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it was decided in a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Irrigation and Power Ministry that 'flood controls' should be a matter to be dealt with directly by the Government of India so that there can be equitable distribution of money in connection with the flood control commensurate with the needs of the State? If so, what is the reaction of the Minister towards that?

My second question is that it was decided, *vide* reports of Ootacamund Conference of the State Ministers of Irrigation and Power, to increase the outlay for the flood control. May I know whether any such concrete steps have been taken by the Government to increase the outlays for the flood control? Also may I know whether the Minister will confirm that there are serious grievances from certain States, for example West Bengal, that adequate sums have not been allocated in order to have effective flood control measures whereas other States—Maharashtra and Gujarat—have been provided with large sums of money?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : If any State is doing a constructive activity . . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am asking a question. After all, Mr. Kulkarni is not the Minister of Irrigation and Power.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : But it is my duty to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. It is not your duty to take the time of the House.

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, I would like to submit that 'flood controls' is entirely the State subject, and the funds allotted to 'flood controls' are entirely at the

discretion of the State Government. The Central Government does not allot any funds as such. The money that is given to a State is governed by a certain formula evolved by the National Development Council and any money that is spent by the various States is entirely the option of that Government. So far as the West Bengal State is concerned, in spite of the fact that the problem of floods—and specially the drainage problem which is also a problem of the flood—is very serious there, the State Government is not paying any attention to it and the money allotted from year to year has been very little. In fact, in the Fourth Plan, they have provided only Rs. 2½ crores. At my own intervention, I went and discussed the matter with the Governor and other Advisors and they have now raised the amount to Rs. 10 crores. Therefore, it is not a question of allotting money to the States of Gujarat or Maharashtra. Block money is given to each State and from that each State sets apart money according to its needs. Therefore, there is no question of discretion by the Centre.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : My other points have not been answered. A decision was made in the Consultative Committee of the Irrigation and Power Ministry that the flood control should be treated as the Central subject. What has the reaction of the Government been to it?

DR. K. L. RAO : The Consultative Committee has always been saying that the flood control problem, especially in Bengal and Bihar, must be treated as a national problem. Similarly Kerala has also been saying. But according to the decision of the National Development Council that has been made, these subjects still continue to be the subjects of the State. The Government of India does not feel that they can interfere with the National Development Council's decision. It is only in the next meeting that another attempt can be made to see whether a decision can be taken in favour of flood controls being taken over by the Centre.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : I want to know whether there was a decision about the embankment of Subarnarekha on the West Bengal and Orissa side simultaneously and may I know whether the work has been taken up simultaneously so far for flood control?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that Subarnarekha is a boundary river between West Bengal and Orissa and we are very anxious for the embankment to be constructed. In fact, it is on account of this, that the project has been delayed and it is still under discussion between the representatives of both the Governments as to what we should do in the matter.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY : On an earlier occasion the Minister made a statement in this House saying that he would like a sort of a master plan, a comprehensive plan, with reference to the whole of the Eastern region including Bengal. Has he taken any steps to formulate that scheme to take up flood control measures in the entire Eastern area?

DR. K. L. RAO : We have formed a Flood Control Board for the Northern rivers in Bengal. Still we do not have a clear picture. The Board has been formed recently with representatives from the Centre and the Ministers of Bengal. We have had one meeting and we have to follow it up further.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं माननीय मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कमेटी बनाई गई है जांच के लिए उसने अभी तक कौन सी प्रगति की है, उस प्रगति पर क्या सरकार प्रकाश डालेगी ? मैंने गंगा नदी के बारे में माननीय मन्त्री महोदय से अनेक बार सवाल किया है कि गंगा नदी से, जो 1500 मील में बहती है, 21 करोड़ लोग प्रभावित होते हैं, इस पर सरकार ने क्या मास्टर प्लान बनाने की बात तय की है और अगर तय की है तो इसमें उसने क्या प्रगति की है ? गंगा नदी के एरिया के लोग...

श्री सभापति : आपका सवाल हो गया, बहुत साफ सवाल है ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जरा उनको याद करा देते हैं ।

श्री सभापति : वे मिनिस्टर ऐसे हैं ...

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : उनको याद दिला देते हैं, उनको पता तो है ।

डा० बी० एन० अन्तनी : गंगा नदी का पवित्र नाम तो सुनने दो ।

DR. K. L. RAO : There is no separate Committee for Ganga as such. There is no committee for flood control now. The purpose of this Committee is to determine why so many people died and what were the extraordinary features of the floods in 1970. Regarding the hon. Member's question about Diara land being immersed and to what extent relief we should provide by way of irrigation and electricity, we have been discussing about this and I am expecting some positive suggestions of estimate from the Bihar Government.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I allowed you a supplementary.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : I am from South India and it is a question about South India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for the whole of India.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if this Committee has considered and is examining the problem of almost annual floods in Eastern UP and waterlogging in Western UP? Secondly, may I know if the Minister is in a position to tell the House what are the amounts that the Centre gave for flood relief during the last financial year to the various States because I know some States were given crores but U.P. was given nothing.

DR. K. L. RAO : This Committee can go into all questions relating to the 1970 floods. About the floods in Eastern U. P. and waterlogging in Western U.P. it is for the Committee to go into that. I would draw the attention of the Committee to this and they would pay attention to this problem also.

With regard to relief, relief is always given on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee appointed by the Government of India and relief has been given to a number of States which were affected and U. P. has also been given.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : How much?

DR. K. L. RAO : I would give the figure. Sir, U.P. has been given Rs. 9.35 crores.