

**f TELESCOPE INSTALLED AT
BANGALORE**

*ai-. SHRI A. J. MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'a a Institute of Science in Bangalore has installed a telescope for viewing the galaxies which, in some respects, is reported to be superior to the Jodrell Bank Telescope; and

(b) what was the expenditure on the construction of the telescope ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (SHRI MATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) The sensitivity of the Radio Telescope installed in Ootacamund by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, is higher than that of the telescope at Jodrell Bank.

(b) Approximately Rs. 58 lakhs.

SHRI A. D. IANI: Sir, arising from replies to (a) and (b) may I ask the Prime Minister in view of the fact that China has joined the space club what steps Government are taking to strengthen the astronomical facilities in the country and whether the Government has got at least the outlines of a space programme? We want something to boost the sagging morale of the people of the country.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Boost the morale by looking at the stars ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : : Sir, this is a general question about space : programme while here we are discussing about this particular thing. If the hon. Member gives notice then we will answer, Sir

SHRI V. B. RVJU: Sir, now and then backbencher-, also may be taken note of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: But yesterday you were in the front bench.

SHRI V. B. RVJU: Sir, an area is not backward permanently.

SHRI BHUPEJH GUPTA: We are now talking about the galaxies, not backward areas.

SHRI V. B. RVJU: Sir, with your permission I am raising the pertinent question that an area does not remain backward permanently. If you will allow me to go back ..

(•Transferred from the 6th May, 1970.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please sit down.

**TALK WITH PAKISTAN FOR
FARAKKA BARRAGE**

*382. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether there is going to be any further discussion on the settlement of the Farakka dispute between India and Pakistan and if so, when and where, and what are the other details in this connection ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): It was agreed at the last meeting between the Secretaries of the Governments of India and Pakistan he'd at Islamabad (West Pakistan) from 24th February, 1970 to 2nd March, 1970 that the next Secretaries' level meeting for talks on matters relating to the Eastern Rivers would be held in New Delhi within four months' time for carrying forward the discussions.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Sir, I think it was the decision of the Government of India that the experts should meet first in order to give clearance to the technical aspects of the matter before the Secretaries could meet. How was the Secretaries meeting expedited before even the technical experts could meet? How was this decision taken that the Secretaries level meeting should be held at Islamabad before the experts could meet and decide about it or give clearance to the project? I am told the technicians met but they could not come to any conclusion. If that is so, why was this Secretary's team sent to Islamabad, only to have a joy ride to Pakistan and then to come back without any conclusion being arrived at ?

DR. K. L. RAO: Between 1960 and up to date there were five technical expert committee meetings and initially these meetings they have tried their best to come to some sort of Settlement on various basic facts, but they could not do it. Then the Secretaries, at the request of the Pakistan Government, agreed to have a Secretary-level meeting in order to see whether the experts-level meeting could be carried forward to a point where some sort of agreement on the facts of the data could be established. Therefore, four meetings were held, two in India and two in Islamabad. It is not a question of joy ride as such and the next meeting is to follow in the month of July.