

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, the hon. Member is very knowledgeable on this subject and if he thinks that there is room for reduction and make suggestions, we shall consider them.

KRISHNA-GODAVARI RIVER WATERS DISPUTE

*212. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN :†

SHRI M. M. DHARIA

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR :

SHRI YELLA REDDY :

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION and POWER be pleased to state the outcome of the discussions held with the concerned Chief Ministers in August 1967 towards the settlement of the Krishna-Godavari River waters dispute?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : A further meeting was held by the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Mysore on the 6th October, 1967. Various aspects of the Krishna-Godavari dispute were discussed. Further discussions are expected to be held soon.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : The hon. Minister had assured the House during the last session that the question, whether the fixing of radial gates was contemplated in Stage I or II of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project, would be enquired into. May I know whether such an enquiry was made, if so, what are the results of the enquiry and whether these results were placed before the meetings of the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh during their conference?

DR. K. L. RAO : The question of fixing up the crest gates at Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is one of the subjects that have been under discussion and that is a subject which is being dealt with by the Prime Minister's Conference.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : May I draw the attention of the Minister to a statement given by the Chief Minister of Mysore on 9th October stating that the Chairman of the CWPC has upheld that fixing of these gates was

not contemplated in Stage I of the Project? What has the Minister to say in regard to this?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, generally we are keeping the discussions at this meeting in a confidential manner. We do not want to say what has happened in that meeting.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : I had asked a specific question whether an enquiry was made by this Ministry or not. The Minister has not replied to it. If an enquiry had been carried out he may keep the results of that enquiry confidential. At least this House should be assured that an enquiry was carried out by the Ministry.

DR. K. L. RAO : The various aspects of the problem of the crest gates are being enquired into and the results of those enquiries are placed from time to time before the Prime Minister's Conference with them.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Sir, this matter has been pending since long. The Chief Ministers' Conference is soon to be held, as told by the hon. Minister. May we know from the hon. Minister whether in this Conference this matter will be either mutually settled or if it is not settled, then it shall be referred to some tribunal with due terms of reference and guiding principles? If that assurance comes forth, it will stop all the bitterness that is now being created in all these three States unnecessarily.

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true; what the hon. Member has said is very correct. There are two ways of solving these river water disputes. One is by discussion, negotiation and settlement. That will create a spirit of friendliness among the various parties. The other is referring it under the Inter-State Disputes Act to a tribunal and that may create disappointment to some parties and pain and disunity amongst the parties which we should avoid, and that is the attempt that is being made. That is why we are trying to settle them by negotiation as much as possible before the very high personage in the country.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR : Is it a fact that one constituent part of this Union, namely, Maharashtra State has served a notice on Andhra Pradesh regarding the stoppage of water, etc.? So,

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri. S. K. Vaishampayen.

are we to understand that we are living in one nation or we are having so many nations in one continent ?

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Independent nations.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR : I have got a separate question on the Narmada River where also there is a dispute between Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. This is a dispute between Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. How long will the Government take to evolve an all-India policy and have some sort of arbitration or a policy of intervention ? The Government of India intervenes unnecessarily in State matters where it is not warranted and they do not solve the problem where their intervention is absolutely necessary. So, may I ask the hon. Minister how long it will take to solve this dispute and create an image that this is one country ? Otherwise, a different image is created. The language problem is there, the river waters problem is there, every sort of problem is there. The image should be that this is one country, not one bundle of countries in this continent.

DR. K. L. RAO : With regard to serving of notice by Maharashtra, we are not aware. I only read in the papers. And with regard to what the hon. Member has said, it is quite correct that we should settle these river disputes. But it has also to be remembered that in India, in a big country like India, most of the rivers are inter-State rivers, they pass through more than one State. On the whole, I should say that in India we are having greater equanimity than many other countries because the only two disputes that are still pending settlement are these two rivers, Narmada and Krishna-Godavari. Except for these two rivers, in spite of the fact that we have got many other rivers of an inter-State nature, there is no problem. Of course, differences do arise and we have been able to settle quite a bit of them. We should also persevere in trying to settle this problem amicably. But in case it is not possible, we shall resort to the Inter-State Water Disputes Act.

SHRI YELLA REDDY : Sir, the settlement of this question is delaying the progress of the work under the project. As a result, the progress of the work of bringing more area under paddy cultivation is being delayed. May I know, Sir, how long this question of settlement will take ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I share the hon. Member's anxiety to settle this as early as possible. I will not be able to give the time limit though I wish to do so. The only thing I can tell the hon. Member is that in respect of the Krishna-Godavari rivers the progress of the work has not been held up. Quite a large number of works have been sanctioned in each of the States. They are going on with the sanctioned projects. It is only in the case of the Narmada that there has been some setback in the development of the river. We are, however, anxious that we should settle that as early as possible.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Since Question No. 227 is a connected question may I put a supplementary ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will come to you, Mr. Kumaran.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : May I know, Sir, whether the Government of Maharashtra have given in writing what are the points of dispute because some time back there was a lot of noise in the country regarding the erection of crest gates by the Government of Andhra Pradesh ? Now I find that even after the erection of crest gates the water utilised or stored in Nagarjunasagar is 191,000 million cubic feet as against 264,000 millions which they are eligible to. The statement laid in this House by the Minister on 24-11-67 gives a statement of the water utilised in respect of the Koyna Project. I find that in April 1966 the water utilisation is 162 million cubic metres. It goes up to 222.2 million cubic metres in October, to 231.7 million cubic metres in December and to 235 million cubic metres in May 1967. I am afraid this is far in excess of the quantity of water which they are eligible to utilise under the previous agreement. So may I know what are the points of dispute ?

Another thing is that even if more water is stored in the Nagarjunasagar project, the authority to protest is not the Maharashtra Government because if the water is not stored in Nagarjunasagar it will go to the Bay of Bengal. Therefore, if there is anybody to protest it is the Andhra Pradesh Government. May I know, Sir, what are the points of dispute exactly ?

There is one more thing. May I know, Sir whether the Central Govern-

ment is aware that they have utilised more water of the Koyna Project, and if it is so, what action has the Government taken ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, the three States have respectively pointed out their various points. The main questions that figure very prominently in the discussion in these disputes are : (i) whether the waters of Krishna and its tributaries must be diverted to the West Coast of Konkan in the interest of irrigation and power; (ii) determination of the amount of water that is there in Krishna for sharing out; (iii) the question of crest gates. These are the three questions that are being discussed.

With regard to the question about Koyna project, I am afraid the hon. Member will have to put a separate question.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : The hon. Minister has avoided a direct answer. What is the factual position.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Due to the inordinate . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let Mr. Khobaragade put his question first. I will come to you.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : My question is not answered.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : The hon. Minister has stated that he would like to solve the problem by negotiation and discussion. The question is how long we have to wait because the question of irrigation potential is very essential for the development of agriculture. In the interest of national integration also, there should not be any dispute between the different States.

Sir, recently the Minister of Irrigation of the Maharashtra Government has made a statement in the Assembly saying that the Maharashtra Government is intending to serve a notice on the Andhra Pradesh Government. If that is the position, may I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister what effective steps he is taking to bring these parties, along with the Mysore State, to a round table, to discuss this problem, to negotiate with all the parties and arrive at a decision? And if it is not possible to arrive at any decision in the near future, what steps does the hon. Minister propose to take so that this problem is solved once and for all?

DR. K. L. RAO : I think that is the question that I have been answering all this time. To repeat once again, I want to remind the hon. Member that discussions are being held at the very highest level by the Prime Minister with the three Chief Ministers. Nothing more can be done.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : Is the hon. Minister aware of a statement by the Irrigation Minister in the Maharashtra Assembly ten or fifteen days back that the Maharashtra Government is intending to serve notice on the Andhra Pradesh Government? Then where is this question of talking, negotiations and discussion?

DR. K. L. RAO : I am coming to that. That is what is being done at the very highest level. With reference to the other question, I may tell the hon. Member that we are not aware of any notice having been served. We only read about it in the papers.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : Intending to serve.

DR. K. L. RAO : Neither the Andhra Pradesh Government has written nor the Maharashtra Government has said that the notice has been given. In absence of anything I do not know anything about the notice. I cannot rely upon newspapers reports.

With regard to the question of settlement of the dispute we are most anxious that this Narmada water dispute must be settled at the earliest. All efforts are being made to achieve a settlement.

(Some hon. Members stood up in their seats)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is an important question. I shall come to you. Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, due to the inordinate delay in getting a decision on this vexed question, how is the Irrigation Minister going to say that the question of installing crest gates is still under discussion because there is a statement in the press saying that the Union Irrigation Minister and the Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission have already expressed doubt about the feasibility of crest gates being included in the first stage? Secondly, there is the question of water

being used for additional irrigation after the installation of crest gates. I could understand the demand of the Andhra Pradesh Government for more irrigation facility. But if the upstream projects in Maharashtra and Mysore are sanctioned, there will be no such water left for installing crest gates. That naturally boils down to this that there should be no crest gates at all. Thirdly, in view of the tension created in the country, I would request the hon. Minister once and for all to put an end to this quarrel by referring it under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act to an arbitrator. There is no other solution for it.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is the question ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Is he aware of it.

DR. K. L. RAO : Regarding the first question, this is not correct. With regard to the second question about additional irrigation, it was made distinctly clear by the Government of India and also the Andhra Pradesh Government has accepted it, whether the crest gates are installed or not, the amount of water they will utilise will be 264,000 million cubic ft. sanctioned for the project of Nagarjunasagar. That is very definite. And there is no question of any additional irrigation being taken up whether the crest gates are installed or not.

The third question is about tension being put an end to by reference to arbitration. As I have already submitted in answer to another question, the best way to ease the tension is by negotiated settlement and not by an award which may prove unfair to one party and they may resent; that is not the best way definitely.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether, Andhra Pradesh being a lower riparian State, there is any possibility of its consumption adversely affecting the upper riparian States ? That is my first question. Then the other question is, may I with your permission say that an 85-year old dispute on Tungabhadra between Madras and Hyderabad was settled in one hour by Rajaji and Ali Yavar Jung with this suggestion that 'after all, if some other ryots enjoy the benefit, we do not mind' ? Both of them said "Does

not matter, let the cultivator of Hyderabad or Madras enjoy the benefit," and the dispute was settled in one hour. May I request the hon. Minister to get those proceedings and inspire our Congress Ministers to have that spirit and settle the matter amicably ? Otherwise, at the earliest occasion, it should be referred to a tribunal.

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, I would submit that I would not like to be drawn into details on this question. With regard to the Tungabhadra dispute, it is no doubt true that it was settled, but not in one hour; the culminating thing may be in one hour, but a number of days, a number of years, have gone before it. But I do hope that a similar hour will arise for the disputes under question.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Sir, the hon. Minister just now said that so far as the Krishna-Godavari dispute is concerned, some progress has been made, but so far as the Narmada Project is concerned, it is at a standstill. In spite of that, the hon. Minister is making a statement in this House that negotiations have been going on. May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that no apparent progress is being made on the Narmada Project and it is at a standstill and in view of the fact that the minds of all Members of Parliament from that region are agitated, whether any progress has been made at all to solve this problem, whether at every meeting the differences are narrowed down, because we do not know how the matter stands ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, the question is about Narmada. I would like to answer that a meeting has been called for on the 16th of December between the Chief Ministers of the concerned States and I think we will be able to cover much more ground and try to settle something.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : May I know whether the Government is thinking of evolving some technique for the settlement of river water disputes between States so that we may have more food production ? If so, may I know how much time will the Government take to evolve such a technique ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I think I have already answered that question. There are only two methods available for this. One is by a negotiated settlement and

the other is by appointing a tribunal and abiding by the award of the tribunal. The first one is better and we are trying to follow the first one. It is only when we fail in that method that we will have to resort to the second.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : There is a limit to negotiations also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are three States involved and I must satisfy every one. Mr. Desai.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : There is a flood; I do not know how long this flood will continue.

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that one of the ways to settle these river water disputes is by appointing a tribunal. Now in the case of the Narmada Valley Project, the Khosla Commission was appointed and the Khosla Commission submitted its recommendations also. But all the recommendations have been shelved, nothing has been and the matter has been delayed for a long time. And meanwhile, the production of food, which is very vital to the country, is suffering. So, may I know if the hon. Minister will consider a proposal to have a permanent board for these river water disputes consisting of some retired Supreme Court Judges who will adjudicate over dispute like the Krishna-Godavari dispute and the Narmada river dispute, between different States and whose award will be binding on all the States?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, the Dr. Khosla Committee was appointed not under the Inter-State River Disputes Act. It was appointed to get various details and make suggestions. They were not binding. There is the Inter-State Water Dispute Act passed by Parliament under which one man will be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and whatever he finds will be the final award. We do not resort to that method as far as possible. So far we have not referred these cases to a tribunal. A tribunal is only a counsel of despair and only when under conditions of despair, one should refer a matter to a tribunal. That is why we are trying to avoid it.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Sir, in view of the fact that Government are dead set against taking advantage of the provisions of the Inter-State River Disputes

Act, may I know if they have considered the propriety of repealing that Act and the relevant Article of the Constitution on which that Act is based? There is no use having a statute and a provision in the Constitution if the Government are determined not to use them, whatever happens.

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, I am afraid the hon. Member is not correct when he says that we are determined to avoid it. It is not so. As I said, the tribunal is the last thing that we should resort to. It creates a sense of bitterness in those people who feel defeated in the award and that is why we are trying to avoid it. It is not a question of avoiding it altogether. When the other methods fail, naturally we have got to refer to it.

श्री देवी सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जब इतने महत्व का प्रश्न है तो वह इतने समय से क्यों झगड़े में पड़ा हुआ है। मुख्य मंत्रियों की मीटिंग होती है और उसका कोई नतीजा नहीं निकलता है और देश की प्रगति रुक जाती है। तो क्यों नहीं हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार इस चाँज को अपने हाथ में ले और सब राज्यों के हित में जो योजना हो, उसके अनुसार क्यों नहीं काम करे? इसके संबंध में आपकी क्या बाधा है?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, unfortunately the hon. Members are only told in a brief way that meetings are in progress. They are not given any details. Otherwise, if they are given details, they will find that there is much narrowing down of these various difficulties and the various points that are raised in connection with the dispute. I may also tell hon. Members that only these two disputes are coming up before them. There are other disputes in the river systems but they are not coming up before them because they are solved. This is why Members are aware of only these two disputes.

श्री देवी सिंह : माननीय, मैं तो यह जानना चाहता था मंत्री महोदय से कि केन्द्र सरकार क्यों नहीं इस मामले को हाथ में लेकर अपना निर्णय देती है, इसमें क्या दिक्कत आती है?

DR. K. L. RAO : That is what we are doing. Sir, the Prime Minister is trying to do exactly the same thing. We have called for a meeting of these Chief Ministers who will go into the matter thoroughly regarding both the river systems.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : May I know, Sir, whether by the erection of crest-gates, more than 264 T. M. C. Ft. of water will be used by the Andhra Pradesh Government as agreed under the Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim Award? Secondly, I would like to know whether in the preparation of the two stages for the project, any reference has been made to the installation of crest-gates?

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, I would plead with the hon. Members that they should not draw me into any details. This is a matter which is under discussion and no useful purpose will be served by my answering that question.

श्री चक्रपाणि शुक्ला : क्या शासन यह संजोता है कि पैसे की कमी की वजह से नदियों के पानी का जो झगड़ा है वह जितने ज्यादा दिन चले उतना अच्छा है ?

(No reply)

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Sir, the Minister has not answered my question.

(Interruption)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, three States are involved in this dispute--Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore. All the three States have Chief Ministers from the same party. Now, Sir, how is it that when the discussions are largely confined to the Chief Ministers that these Chief Ministers cannot come to an agreement? This I would like to know. How is it that they cannot bring their constructive wisdom to bear upon this subject? Now, since these Chief Ministers are proving so hopelessly bankrupt in this matter, may I know why the Government is not considering taking counsel from others, of the Opposition and other parties, so that they can effectively find a way out of this situation? Must we be tied down to these worthless Chief Ministers?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is a suggestion, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kumaran says he has not got a reply from you for his question. He will repeat that question.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Regarding the Koyna Project, the power station at Koyna has been utilising more water than it is entitled to. May I know whether the Central Government is aware of that and, if so, what action has been taken by it? This is what I asked earlier but the Minister did not give a reply.

DR. K. L. RAO : I answered that question by saying that it had nothing to do with this question; he should put a separate question.

RAFI HEART INSTITUTE

*213. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:†
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made towards the establishment of the Rafi Heart Institute in Delhi;

(b) whether the Safdarjung Hospital authorities have submitted any proposal in this connection; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action has so far been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) to (c). The Rafi Heart Institute is proposed to be established as a private venture managed by a Trust. At the request of the sponsors of the Institute, the Delhi Administration have been requested to allot them about nine acres of land in Delhi.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that this project has not been able to make any progress because the land is not available and, if that is a fact, what steps the Health Ministry are taking to see that land is given for this purpose without any further delay?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. P. Bhargava.