

[Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha.] like to read them out—which we are providing and I can pass this on to hon. Members if they want to see. Of course, we ourselves are not satisfied; if satisfaction comes in, I think we will lose our grounds. We are not satisfied with the movement; we want to encourage it further and we want to make a gigantic movement as the hon. Member wants. So far as the argument about collection is concerned, he is perhaps not right in saying that the collections have fallen. It may be lower than the estimated target mentioned in the budget but in 1957-58 the collections were to the tune of Rs. 69 crores and in 1958-59 they were Rs. 78 crores. And we hope that this time they may go up to anywhere between Rs. 80 and Rs. 85 crores. We are trying our level best to reach up to the target. We had provided Rs. 500 crores for the Second Plan period. It was for our convenience that we provided a certain annual figure and that was for five years and so it came to Rs. 100 crores a year. And this is not a water-tight compartment as such. Only 3½ years have passed and we have still 1½ years left and if we really can create that enthusiasm and spirit in the public, if our economic conditions improve, I am sure that we shall be able to achieve our target. Perhaps we might be carrying over some of the unfulfilled targets to the next Plan—I agree there—but that is not an argument to say that we will not achieve our target. Who knows? We might in the rest of the period of 1½ years reach up to the target.

A small point was raised by the hon. Member sitting there. He said that people who are not supposed to pay income-tax should not be assessed at the source and they should not be made to undergo this botheration. Sir, it is very difficult. We keep one account. The deposits are made under different certificates and it is difficult for us to go into the

background of each and every certificate. It is much easier for us to examine these certificates on their merit and deduct the taxes at the source. We have not debarred people who are already paying income-tax from buying these certificates. He said that some *via media* must be found out. We thought over this matter and we found it was not possible. It involved great difficulty. It was not found to be a feasible proposition and I am afraid this method will have to be followed. With these words, Sir, I once again thank the House for the general support that they have given to this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Public Debt Act, 1944, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE DAMAGE TO BHAKRA DAM

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM): Sir, in continuation of the statement I made on the 2nd

September 1959 I wish to bring to the notice of the House that the Board of Consultants, Bhakra Dam met on the 6th September, 1959 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. N. Khosla to consider the measures to be taken to repair the damage to the hoist chamber and restore normal conditions of work at the Bhakra Dam. Mr. M. H. Slocum, Shri Kanwar Sain and Shri S. D. Khungar attended the meeting as members of the Board. The recommendations of the Board, which were unanimous, were considered by the Bhakra Control Board at a meeting held this morning in New Delhi. After hearing Mr. M. H. Slocum and considering the report of the Board of Consultants the Board passed the following resolution:

"The Board has considered the reports of the Board of Consultants and the General Manager, Bhakra Dam on the accident to the hoist chamber and has heard Mr. M. H. Slocum. It is pleased to note the complete accord and the sense of partnership which exist between Mr. Slocum, the Board of Consultants and the Bhakra Dam Administration. It is in entire agreement with them that the most pressing need of the hour is energetic action to repair the damage to the hoist chamber and the undertaking of measures to restore normal conditions of work at Bhakra Dam in the quickest possible time.

The Board appreciates the necessity of changing the existing procedures and methods which are not completely suitable for quick action, and resolves that they be modified suitably to meet the present emergency.

The Board has full confidence in the ability of the Board of Consultants and the Bhakra Dam Administration of which Mr. Slocum is a full partner to tackle the job successfully and in a manner which will be both expeditious and economical.

The Board endorses the action taken so far by the project authorities and approves of the recommendations made by the Board of Consultants in regard to:

(a) the broad features of the scheme for carrying out the necessary remedial measures; and

(b) the steps indicated and the delegations proposed to facilitate expeditious completion of the work."

Work will now proceed in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Consultants.

I brought to the notice of the House that an attempt made on 30th August 1959 to lower a steel gate into the cable gallery to act as a stop log was unsuccessful. We have been informed that a second attempt will be made on or about the 9th September 1959 to lower a heavier gate. Although the gate is ready, it is considered necessary to give some time for the concrete framework to set.

I am laying the Report of the Board of Consultants on the Table of the House. [See Annexure below.]

ANNEXURE

Sixteenth Report of the Board of Consultants, Bhakra Dam

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Board of Consultants was held at the office of the Bhakra Dam Designs Directorate on 6th September 1959, under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. N. Khosla, Mr. M. H. Slocum, Shri Kanwar Sain and Shri S. D. Khungar attended as Members of the Board. Shri M. R. Chopra, General Manager, Bhakra Dam and Shri P. S. Bhatnagar, Director, Bhakra Dam Designs Directorate, were also present.

Scheme for closure of the Right Diversion Tunnel subsequent to the damage to the Hoist Chamber was considered in this meeting. The following information was conveyed to the Board by the General Manager, Bhakra Dam:

[Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim.]

Due to this damage, uncontrolled supply is passing through the Hoist Chamber and gate-control structure. The reservoir level at present is 1444 + The downstream water level is at E1.1184 + The discharge passing through the adit tunnel connecting the Hoist Chamber and the Dam galleries is of the order of 5,000 cusecs. A discharge of about 4,500 cusecs is also passing through the Right Diversion Tunnel.

Various remedial measures were discussed for closure of the Right Diversion Tunnel and plugging of the Hoist Chamber. The Board of Consultants approve the following scheme in broad outlines:—

(i) Choking the entry at the upstream portal of the Right Diversion Tunnel by suitable methods, e.g., placing concrete bags, crates, rock-fill etc., with a view to retain control of the outflow from Bhakra reservoir by means of E.1.1320—irrigation outlets and to reduce the residual head into the Right Diversion Tunnel below the point of entry. If this object is not achieved fully by the date the reservoir level falls below E1.1340 + (the level required for control from E1.1320—outlets), the extent of choking of the tunnel will have to be modified and the releases from the reservoir continued through the Right Diversion Tunnel.

(ii) Constructing a by-pass tunnel of a suitable size by-passing the Hoist Chamber to take care of the expected volume of discharge through the Right Diversion Tunnel at the time of the by-pass tunnel coming into operation, such that the head of water at the entry of this by-pass tunnel is not higher than E1.1210 which is 5½ feet lower than the floor of the Hoist Chamber and the adit tunnel.

Constructing an approach tunnel to give access for carrying out construction operations of the above by-pass tunnel.

(iii) A hoist shaft opening from E1.1360 + which should provide a bulk head arrangement in the by-pass tunnel.

(iv) Arrangement for plugging the damaged Hoist Chamber including the temporary cut-offs upstream and downstream of the Hoist Chamber.

For the expeditious and effective implementation of the above scheme, the Board recommends the following measures:

(i) *Foreign Exchange.*—A bulk amount of Rs. 45 lakhs of foreign exchange is to be placed at the disposal of Bhakra Dam Administration for the procurement of equipment and material required for this emergency and for repairing the damage to the Power House equipment.

(ii) *Procurement Procedure.*—The normal procedure for purchase of equipment or material required for this emergency need not be followed. No advertisements need issue for bids and if necessary, even bids may not be called and purchases made from the market. The Bhakra Dam Administration must be authorised to accept the terms at which this material can be procured. However, the General Manager should inform the Bhakra Control Board about all such purchases over Rs. 10,000.

(iii) *Priorities.*—Over-riding priorities must be arranged for controlled materials, such as steel sections, reinforcement, plates, wire etc.

(iv) *Sanction of additional staff.*—Additional staff will be required in the various Directorates of the Bhakra Dam Administration during this emergency. The General Manager, Bhakra Dam, is to be authorised to sanction this staff and report to the Bhakra Control Board.

(v) *Changes in Establishment.*—
(a) No changes are to be made in the experienced personnel employed in connection with the Bhakra Dam except at the initiative and/or concurrence of the General Manager, Bhakra Dam.

(b) Shri R. Mehta must continue as Liaison and Transport Officer.

(c) The Technical Attache in Washington along with staff must continue till the emergency is over.

(vi) *Bonus to workmen.*—The General Manager, Bhakra Dam, should be authorised to pay bonus or cash awards to the workmen employed on the jobs connected with this emergency upto 50 per cent. of their wages. He should report this to Bhakra Control Board for information only.

(vii) *Financial commitments.*—The General Manager is to be authorised to make financial commitments with the Army, Navy and other agencies, as necessary. He should report action to Bhakra Control Board.

(viii) *Regulation of releases from Reservoir.*—The General Manager must have full authority for regulating releases from the reservoir to suit the exigencies of construction programme, regardless of any other consideration.

(ix) *General.*—The General Manager should be authorised to exercise such additional powers as may be necessary to meet the emergencies, such as providing rent-free accommodation to Army and Navy personnel, sanction of telephone connections to personnel of any rank, purchase of stationery etc., etc.

(Sd.) A. N. Khosla
Chairman.

(Sd.) S. D. Khungar.

(Sd.) Kanwar Sain.

(Sd.) M. H. Slocum.

Members.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the hon. Minister has given some information but may I request him to let us know whether he is willing to have a discussion on this, because this is a subject over which the whole nation is agitated? He said that an advisory committee

with the co-operation of Mr. Slocum has been set up and I am glad that Mr. Slocum has given his full consent because, Sir, the papers reported that Mr. Slocum would like to have the powers of a Commander-in-Chief and unless he was given that sort of absolute powers he would not like to deal with this matter. Sir, we will be highly grateful if the hon. Minister agrees to have a discussion and I would request the Chair also to help us in this.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Punjab): Before the hon. Minister rises to answer the question that has been put by my colleague, may I first congratulate the hon. Minister and his Department on having arrived at a unanimous decision as to what is to be done in order to repair the damage? We are very happy—and I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of this whole House—at this outcome. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is going to accept the suggestion for a discussion of this matter. I do not think a discussion at this stage is really necessary but there are certain matters.

For instance, we would like to know whether the water that is circulating in the galleries at the present moment—I and my colleagues from this House as well as the other House had been to Bhakra day before yesterday—is likely to cause any further damage. I understand that a portion of the galleries has been closed to the inflow of water on the left side of the dam but what the consequences of this flow of water in the galleries would be, we do not know. We would like to know what the expert opinion is in regard to this matter.

Secondly, we were struck by the loyalty and courage of the people who are working there including the men on guard duty. When I see that a 50 per cent. increase in their wages has been suggested, may I say that even a hundred per cent. increase in a matter like this would not be adequate? I hope that this matter will be considered.

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

May I also say that nobody so far really knows the cause of the accident? And I am told that not until February would we really know what the cause was, when the level of the water goes down by 100 feet. Are any steps being taken to press this particular matter? We are very happy indeed that the decision has been arrived at that there should be quick action taken and decentralisation of authority. I hope that this example will be followed in the case of other such undertakings as well.

1 P.M.

श्री पा० ना० राजगोख (मुंबई) : इस पर दो घंटे तक डिसकशन होना चाहिये। यह मेरी प्रार्थना है। यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट सवाल है। डिसकशन होना चाहिये।

श्री उपसभपति : आप क्वेश्चन स्टेटमेंट पर कर सकत हैं। एग्जिक्टिव ही डिजिये।

श्री पा० ना० राजगोख : इस पर दो घंटे के लिये डिसकशन होने की बहुत आवश्यकता है। यहां बहुत नुसा हुआ है। कितना लोग मरे हैं कितना नुकसान हुआ है और कितना खर्च हुआ इस पर पूरा डिसकशन होना चाहिये। यही मेरी प्रार्थना है।

SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also want to associate myself with the anxiety the hon. Member has expressed and the necessity of a debate. It is true that technically Parliament may not be able to do much by the debate, but all the same it is necessary to allay anxiety and we should discuss this in all its repercussions and in all its aspects. That is why I am also associating myself with the request for a discussion.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: Sir, as far as discussion of this question in this House is concerned, I am entirely in the hands of the House. If the House comes to such a decision, then I must obey and I must have

that discussion. There are some two or three other points which have been raised here. As far as Mr. Slocum is concerned, in the statement I have already said that all the decisions which have been taken have been arrived at with complete accord.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is a signatory to this statement.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: Yes, Sir, he is also a signatory to the statement. Regarding reports that there is some conflict of opinion between Mr. Slocum and others and his relations with the Board are strained, that is not correct. The attention which this matter has received is enough to lead us to the conclusion that it was not so very serious and we should feel assured that no such thing will be heard of in future and that the work will continue with the unanimous efforts and combined efforts of all concerned there.

As far as the question of increased pay to be given to those people is concerned, which my hon. friend mentioned, what I can do is only to convey the desire on his part to the authority concerned to consider. That I promise to do.

As far as the present position is concerned, probably it was already brought to the notice of this House that half of the water, which was flowing into the galleries and into the powerhouse, was diverted. The other half has to be diverted to the other side of the dam, for which a gate is going to be placed, within two or three days. It will take two or three days because the concrete will take time for setting. So, I have neither any doubt nor any fear in regard to the success of the measure which is going to be taken. And as stated in the statement it is going to be done with the complete accord of all concerned there, with the Board of Consultants, the Control Board, Mr. Slocum and other people who are in charge there. All are agreed on what is being done at present. I hope that

the result will be success in this matter and we may be able to hear of that day soon. I hope and I shall try—before this House adjourns on or about the 11th and when the present labours are finished—to make another statement on this subject.

SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: Sir, I would like to have information on one point from the hon. Minister. It was stated that the damage was put at Rs. 55 lakhs. Subsequently, it was reported that Mr. Slocum said that if such a man was there who could estimate it, he would recommend him for a contract in America, or something like that. It had put us into serious thinking. Can he enlighten us on that particular point of the estimated damage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): That is a report in the newspaper, he had only stated that nobody can estimate the cost of the repairs. What he mentioned was the cost of the repairs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2.30.

The House then adjourned for lunch at six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half-past two of the clock, **MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** in the Chair.

THE KERALA APPROPRIATION BILL, 1959

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala for the services of the Financial year 1959-60, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, as a result of the Proclamation issued by the President on 31st July, 1959, under article 356 of the Constitution, which was approved by this House earlier, the powers of the Legislature of the State of Kerala are now exercisable by Parliament. Thus, the Supplementary Demands for 1959-60 and the connected Appropriation Bill, which ordinarily would have been dealt with by the State Legislature, have now to be disposed of by Parliament. Accordingly, this Bill arises out of the Supplementary Demands of Rs. 19.63 lakhs voted by the Lok Sabha on the 29th August, 1959 and the expenditure of Rs. 28,000 “charged” on the Consolidated Fund of the State as detailed in the Supplementary Demands statement presented to the House on the 24th August last.

Full details of the Supplementary Demands have been given in the footnotes below the Supplementary Demands and I do not wish to take the time of the House in dealing with them at length except to make a brief reference to the main items. A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs is required for conducting the General Elections of the State Legislature following the dissolution of the former Assembly. It is our intention to hold the elections, as soon as possible, in the current year after the electoral rolls have been scrutinised. A sum of Rs. 2.76 lakhs is required under Police, mainly for the expenditure of a Committee appointed to examine the functioning of the police department and increase in the strength of certain police units. A sum of Rs. 1 lakh is being sought for the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme for which the Life Insurance Corporation has advanced a loan of Rs. 9 lakhs to the State Government. The other items are comparatively minor and arise mainly for meeting the expenditure on certain new schemes, not provided for in the original State Budget, which are, according to the criteria laid down by the State Public Accounts Committee, treated as ‘New Services’ and for which advances have been drawn from the State Contingency Fund