

THE CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1970

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1970.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI OM MEHTA : Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1976

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

THE BETWA RIVER BOARD BILL, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH) : Sir, I rise to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Board for the creation

of a reservoir at Rajghat by construction, on behalf of the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, of a dam on the Betwa river at Rajghat and for the regulation of such reservoir, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, as the hon. Members are perhaps aware, the River Betwa is a major tributary of the Yamuna flowing through the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Betwa Canal system together with Parichha weir was constructed in 1885, the Dhukwan dam constructed in 1909, the Matatila Dam constructed in 1958 and these together with a few other small schemes utilise less than one-third of the total water resources of the Betwa.

The Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and the districts of Guna, Shivpuri and Datia of Madhya Pradesh, bordering the Bundelkhand region, are drought-stricken areas. The existing storages provide meagre irrigation facilities to these areas and are unable to supply water to large pockets in this region.

The Rajghat site on the Betwa on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, provides excellent conditions for a large storage to meet the irrigation demands of these needy areas. The question of sharing of the waters of the Betwa in the interest the people of the region received considerable attention during the course of the last three years by the two State Governments and it was in August, 1972, that an agreement was reached between the Chief Ministers of the two States to construct a storage dam at Rajghat with a live capacity of 62 TMC. After allowing for 9 TMC for the committed use downstream, the balance waters will be shared equally by the two States.

The total quantity available at Rajghat is 115 TMC. It was agreed that 53 TMC will be utilised by Madhya Pradesh upstream of Rajghat and the balance quantity of 62 TMC will be available at Rajghat for being shared between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as indicated above.