

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, August 10, 1962/Sravana 19,
1884 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

National Projects Construction Corporation

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*172. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Heda:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) when the National Projects Construction Corporation started functioning;

(b) whether it proposes to extend its work beyond the limited sphere of irrigation projects; and

(c) whether it will have its own cadre of engineers and technicians so as to eliminate private contractors?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) From 9th January, 1957.

(b) and (c). Yes; Sir.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Will the Government give us an idea about the structural organisation of this Corporation. (Aj) LSD—1.

poration, its composition and the nature of the work that is expected to be undertaken?

Shri Alagesan: It has got a Board of Directors with Shri L. N. Mishra as chairman. There are nine directors representing the various Ministries in the Centre and also the State Governments. That is broadly the organisation of this Corporation. I have got the memorandum and articles of association and I can give them to the hon. Member.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know how far this innovation will be an improvement on the existing system, by which the irrigation projects can be speeded up?

Shri Alagesan: In certain States we do not have enough of good and experienced contractors. We had to construct these various river valley projects and to fill that need this Corporation came into existence. Since it came into existence, it has taken up works valued at several lakhs of rupees, especially works connected with the Chambal valley project. It has carried out these works and has also made certain profits over a period of years.

Shri Heda: The Minister has replied in the affirmative to parts (b) and (c) of the question. May I know, in that connection, what further spheres of activities this Corporation has taken up? Has it got any programme for the next year as to which type of projects it will take?

Shri Alagesan: At present it is confining itself to irrigation works and river valley projects. At the last meeting of the Board of Directors they have decided that they should go outside these irrigation works and take even the construction of buildings. Of

course, they have decided that they should not come into conflict with the other Corporation which is concerned with the construction of buildings.

Dr. K. L. Rao: May I know whether the NPCC was hampered in its progress for want of construction equipment and, if so, what vigorous steps are the Government taking to remedy this defect?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to say whether they were hampered in their work for want of this equipment. If they come to us for any help in the matter, we are ready to extend it.

Shri Umanath: Is it not a fact that this Corporation takes a contract and gives it to sub-contractors and, if so, may I know whether it is to be merely an agency between the project authorities and the contractors?

Shri Alagesan: Occasions may arise when, if the whole work is taken up, some sub-work may be let out to sub-contractors. It is not as if they act as an intermediary and sub-let the entire contract work.

Karnafuli Dam

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 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
 Shri B. K. Das:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Narendra Singh
 Mahida:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Bishanchander Seth:
 Shri Yallamanda Reddy:
 Shri Dasaratha Deb:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Irrigation & Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnafuli Project in East Pakistan has been commissioned by the Pakistan authorities without giving previous notice to India, and that a large area of land in West Bengal has been permanently submerged under water,

causing untold hardship to our people who had to flee from the catchment area;

(b) how much area and how many persons were affected by this submergence; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) Due to commissioning of the Karnafuli Dam in East Pakistan, no part of the State of West Bengal is likely to be submerged.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Hem Barua: There is a slight mistake in this question. May I submit that I have also tabled a question about this. There is no question of any area in West Bengal being submerged. Some areas in Assam are being submerged. Therefore, may I put a question about that?

Mr. Speaker: He might put a question straight.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if it is a fact that there was an agreement with Pakistan for payment of compensation for the submergence of Indian territory, and since the Government of Assam have established, through a survey, that Indian territory will be submerged, may I know what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan?

Shri Alagesan: It was agreed at the conference at Ministers' level which was held in 1959 that India would not raise objection to this project, provided there is a joint survey of the areas that will be submerged, because then there was no idea as to what area will be submerged and how many will be displaced and what arrangements would have to be made. This condition was agreed to by Pakistan. But later on, the survey was to be a joint survey, but before the survey was completed, they went on commissioning the project and we were told abruptly that the project has been commissioned. Even though the water has