

Explosion at Nagarjunasagar Dam site

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*96. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Solanki:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Sham Lal Saraf:

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

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news regarding an explosion at the Nagarjunasagar dam site on the 18th July resulting in the death of 13 persons and injuries to five;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made; and

(c) what are the findings of the enquiry?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3057/64].

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement, it is found that this accident took place on 18-7-64. The statement has been laid on the Table today. Has the inquiry been finalised, and if so, what is the result?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The investigations are being conducted by the State Government. The latest information they have given is that the matter is still under investigation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Was any departmental inquiry conducted at the Central level? If so, have they recommended any compensation to the family members?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The Centre does not conduct any departmental investigation. It is for the State to do that
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Necessary compensation is also paid by the State Government because it is a State project.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Was the supervisor expected to store these explosives in his own house for duties to be performed regarding the works?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Actually what happened in this case is like this. A number of people has been evacuated from the submerged areas of the Nagarjunasagar project. For rehabilitation of these people, they have selected some areas where wells had to be dug in rock. This supervisor was in charge for sinking those wells. In February, he took blasting material to dig those wells. Accounts show that in the next month he had given the contractor all these materials to be used in blasting for sinking the wells. So it is not understood how these materials came to be in the house of this unfortunate supervisor who paid with his life.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जिन व्यक्तियों की इयुटी में यह हुआ है क्या उन के खिलाफ कोई स्टेप लिया जा रहा है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: As I submitted already, the only officer responsible for this explosion, if at all, will be the officer who died. It was not his business to have detained any explosive material in his house.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : वह मेरी बात समझे नहीं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह समझे तो हैं, लेकिन वः कहते हैं कि जिस के खिलाफ ऐक्शन लेना था वह आदमी मर गया ।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि उस वक़्त वहाँ पर जो पुलिस के गाईं आदि थे क्या उन से कुछ जबाब तलब किया गया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या उस घर में पुलिस रखी जाती थी ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The matter is under investigation. If any other party is found at fault, naturally they will be dealt with.

Shri Nambiar: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister that this officer had no necessity to keep it at home, have Government made inquiries to see whether other officers have kept these explosives and other material at home, hiding them from accounts and from superiors?

Mr. Speaker: If the Member has any information, he may pass it on.

Shri Nambiar: No, Sir. Nagarjuna-sagar is not a small project in which only a few tons of explosives are required. Many more tons would be required, and such happenings might occur again.

Mr. Speaker: The Member passes on a warning. The Minister might take care.

Shri Kapur Singh: The Member may not wish to pass on any information he possesses.

Mr. Speaker: If he has got information,

Shri Hem Barua: An incident like this occurred in Assam also. Explosives were pilfered and sold in the market by some officers.

Mr. Speaker: Members are very particular to know about this.

Dr. K. L. Rao: The Vigilance Department has been alerted on this matter, and every care is taken to see that such things shall not be repeated.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In the light of this tragic incident, may I know whether Government has issued definite instructions to the authorities concerned to avoid such happenings?

Dr. K. L. Rao: As I have submitted already, every care is now being taken to see that when the material is given to the superior or the particular officer, it is used by the contractors the same day or in the course of the next few days. Anyway, the officers are not entitled to keep explosive materials in their houses.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Incidents like this not only endanger the lives of the staff there and others, but render these important national projects insecure. May I know what steps have been taken in order to see that the lives of the workers there are safe and also to see that the projects are rendered secure?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I may submit that this kind of malpractice, if it already exists, is a thing that will be carefully watched and should be prevented from occurring by the Vigilance Department. Such cases do not occur very often, and I do not know how it occurred in this case.

श्री शिव नारायण : जो 13 घादमी मारे गये हैं उन के परिवारों को सरकार ने क्या सहायता दी है ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The Government will naturally compensate the persons concerned.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि उनको राज्य सरकार ने क्षति-पूति दी है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार की धोर में भी उनको कुछ सहायता दी जाएगी और यदि हाँ, तो वह उन तक कब तक पहुँचेगी ?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Immediate help was given by the project authorities for the survivors of the families, and the compensation to which the families are entitled will be given, or must have been given by this time, by the State.