

उस के बाद मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि जांच की कोई जरूरत नहीं है । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस स्टेटमेंट में जो कुछ कहा गया है, उस को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार इस बात की जांच करने के लिए क्या करने जा रही है कि आग वस्तुतः लगी क्यों और उस के कारण कितना नुकसान हुआ ।

Dr. K. L. Rao: I have already given very clearly the reasons and what defects were found by the police. The answer is exactly in conformity with what I have said. They simply said that there is no criminal act of omission or commission involved in this and the other things were more of administrative defects.

ब्रह्मपुत्र-गंगा जलमार्ग

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* 1251. श्री रा० बरुआ :

श्री विभूति मिश्र :

क्या लिच्चाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने नौबहन के लिये ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी से एक चौड़ी नहर निकाल कर उसे भागलपुर में गंगा नदी से मिलाने की योजना अन्तिम रूप में तैयार कर ली है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस काम के लिये कितनी राशि खर्च की जायेगी और यह जल मार्ग कितना उपयोगी तथा लाभप्रद होगा; और

(ग) निर्माण-कार्य कब प्रारम्भ हो जायेगा ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government is considering a scheme to construct a barrage across the river Tista near Gajaldoba in West Bengal with a right bank canal con-

necting the river Ganga at Farakka and a left bank canal connecting the river Brahmaputra at Dhubri in Assam. The system will link the Brahmaputra with the Ganga through Tista.

As the investigations carried out so far indicate high costs for the project, further alternative investigations for reducing the size of the canals, utilising river Mahananda as a carrier channel etc., are in progress. The cost of the scheme will become clear after the investigations have been completed. Question of implementing the project will arise afterwards.

Shri R. Barua: In view of the fact that the investment required for this channel will be repaid out of the earnings for a period of 50 years may I know whether Government is prepared to go ahead with the investigation of the project?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It has not been clearly established that the earnings will be able to pay the cost. At the moment we have found that the cost of the navigation canal will be expensive. We are trying to find out how to make it more economical and what steps should be taken to make it possible.

Shri R. Barua: May I know whether Government is going to have foreign collaboration for investigating the whole matter?

Dr. K. L. Rao: There is no necessity for any foreign advice in this matter. It is quite simple and we are capable of dealing with it.

Shrimati Jyotsana Chanda: May I know from the Government whether any hydrographic survey has been made to have an alternative river route through the rivers Kaladhan, Dhauleswari, Bairavi and Sairang by constructing a dam at Kaladhan in the border of Burma and Mizo hills?

Dr. K. L. Rao: It has not been seriously discussed or investigated. Now it will be looked into.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has accepted this scheme of linking Brahmaputra with Ganga, may I know whether any master plan is being prepared for having this type of inland waterways throughout the whole country, wherever possible?

Dr. K. L. Rao: From time to time there have been investigations of connecting various rivers, wherever possible and practicable. As one such project, for the last so many years investigation has been going on about connecting Brahmaputra with Ganges.

Shri Hem Barua: The hon. Minister has just now stated that the estimated expenditure of this canal linking Ganga with Brahmaputra is going to be very high and that is why Government are trying to enquire into the economics of this expenditure. If after this enquiry Government finds that it is not possible to minimise the estimated expenditure may I know whether Government is going to abandon this scheme finally?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): Our attempt is to find out which of the two projects which we have under contemplation is more economical. If we find that the other one which we are now investigating is more economical, we will certainly go in for it.

Shri Ranga: If neither of them is economical?

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, may I submit that the Minister of State gave a reply in relation to this particular canal and did not say that there are two alternative schemes or alternative channels?

Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed: There is an alternative scheme which is also under investigation.

Shri Basumatari: Just now the hon. Minister has stated that river transport is economical as compared with other forms of transport. If so, may I know the reasons standing in the way of the Government for providing river transport in this area expedi-

tiously to help the people of that area?

Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed: I think, the hon. Member has not correctly understood what my colleague has said. Already a certain scheme has been investigated. Now there is an alternative scheme which is also under consideration and the question is which one of these two will be cheaper. The cheaper one will, of course, be taken into consideration.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Since I have the privilege of belonging to Bhagalpur mentioned in this question, may I know whether, when either of the alternative schemes is completed, we will have any chance of having navigational facilities up to Bhagalpur and beyond to the west which Shri Roy mentioned or will it be confined to Bengal and Assam only?

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order, Sir. Do you not expect a Member of Parliament to have an extensive interest in the whole of the country; or, do you want his interest to be confined only to Bhagalpur?

Mr. Speaker: Bhagalpur is mentioned there.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I hope Shri Barua will stand from Punjab and not from Gauhati.

Shri Hem Barua: I hope I will get your support, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I can make room for him.

Dr. K. L. Rao: Once we have the Farakka Barrage, it will be quite possible to go beyond Bhagalpur.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that transport to North Bengal, Assam, Nagaland, NEFA, Manipur, Tripura, and so on and so forth, and for the matter of that Bhagalpur also, is very much affected owing to the stoppage of the inland water transport over Brahmaputra; if so, whether the Ministry is considering to give this proposal, whether it is the ordinary proposal or the previous proposal, top priority so

that the transport difficulty over a vast strategic area can be removed?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Quite so. These schemes will be investigated and if they are found economical, naturally, it will be taken up.

Aid from Abroad

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- *1252. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**
Shri Linga Reddy:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state;

(a) whether the countries of the Aid India Consortium had resumed aid to India for execution of the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries, the date from which the aid was resumed and to what extent with details thereof?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6114/66].

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बड़े आश्चर्य की बात है कि इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में जो बयान दिया गया है, उस में वह उस समाचार का भी जिक्र नहीं किया गया है, जो दो दिन पहले अखबारों में छपा था और जिस में कहा गया था कि अमरीका ने सब सहायता बन्द कर दी है और वह जून तक बन्द रहेगी। क्या यह सदन का अपमान नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य सबाल करें।

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तानी आक्रमण के समय अमरीका, युनाइटेड किंगडम और कामन-वैल्थ कंट्रीज़ ने भारत को जो सहायता देनी

बन्द कर दी थी, क्या वह अब तक बन्द है या उस के चालू होने की कोई आशा दिखाई देती है; यदि उस के चालू होने की कोई आशा है, तो वह कब तक चालू हो जायेगी।

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: As I have already said in the statement, some aid has been given and this House knows about that aid, namely, the \$ 100 million Humphrey Aid; but so far as the aid which was stopped is concerned, that has not been specifically restored yet. At the moment, as this House knows, one of my colleagues is in America and he is discussing this matter there.

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका ने इस बात के कौन से कारण बताए हैं कि यह एड जून तक बन्द रहेगी और इस बात के पीछे क्या तथ्य है कि अमरीका जो सहायता देने जा रहा है, वह उस के सम्बन्ध में हर एक योजना की जांच करेगा और जांच करने के बाद हम को एड देगा और क्या इस से भारत की अखड़ता और सम्मान को धक्का नहीं पहुँचता ?

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मांग भी रहे हैं और सम्मान भी चाहते हैं !

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: It is well known that so far as the aid which has been stopped is concerned, we are trying to get it and the terms on which America will give further aid is again a matter of discussion at the moment. The consortium will take place some time later on in the year and my colleague is there discussing the matter. It has come out in the papers already that he is there discussing the matter with the Government of the United States of America and also with the World Bank which is an international institution catering to the interests both of the borrowing and the lending countries.

Shri Daji: The question was: What are the reasons mentioned by America for not giving the loan? That was