

Short Notice Questions and Answers
Mangla Dam in Mirpur

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S.N.Q.
 No. 20. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri Naushir Bharucha:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Supakar:
 Shri R. S. Lal:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have prepared a plan for constructing a Dam, known as the Mangla Dam Project, in the district of Mirpur in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details of that plan;

(c) whether the execution of the plan is in consonance with the terms of the cease-fire agreement; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (d). The Permanent Representative of the Government of India in the United Nations recently addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council in regard to the commencement of execution of the Mangla Dam Project by the Government of Pakistan. A copy of this letter with its enclosure on the Mangla Dam Project is being laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 94].

2. As will appear from this letter and the note, any such proposal is a violation of the Security Council Resolutions and the assurances given by the Chairman of the United Nations Commission to the Prime Minister of India.

3. Such details of this project as are known are given in the papers being laid on the Table of the House.

4. It has been stated in the Pakistan newspapers that notifications have

been issued to acquire land in the Mirpur district for this project. It is not known what other steps have been taken in furtherance of this project.

5. No reply has been received by Government to the letter addressed to the President of the Security Council. It is not proposed to raise this question for discussion in the Security Council at this stage.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It appears from the papers that have been laid on the Table of the House that the Government of Pakistan was carrying on investigations and other works for a long time such as construction of roads, buildings, staff quarters, etc. for constructing that dam and the first news regarding that dam appeared on September 17, 1956.

Shri Supakar: March, 1956.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I stand corrected, if it is March, 1956. May I know why the Government of India did not approach the Security Council at that time and waited until Pakistan brought to the notice of the Security Council the charge regarding contravention of the Resolution of January 17, 1948?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite know what to say in reply to the hon. Member with reference to generally raising this question of Pakistan consolidating its position in the areas occupied by them. The building of roads, etc., cannot be objected to normally. It is when a formal scheme comes up that we can object to it. Of course, we might have objected to the idea of having such a dam. Nothing has been done so far. Even now, actually not much has been done, except some preliminary steps to acquire land.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of persons who are likely to be rendered homeless and the towns and villages which are likely to be destroyed because of the construction of this dam, and whether the Government will bring this fact also to the notice of the Security Council?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In the Pakistan papers, I believe, it is said that 100,000 persons are likely to be rendered homeless. We have no correct figures. No doubt that means a large number of villages will also be submerged.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या यह बात ठीक है कि यह जो डैम होगा इसके द्वारा काश्मीर का कोई लाभ नहीं होगा बल्कि इसका पूरा पूरा लाभ वेस्टर्न पाकिस्तान को होगा और काश्मीर की एक इंच जमीन भी इससे नहीं सीधी जा सकेगी ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मैं कैसे कह सकता हूँ कि माननीय सदस्य कोई बात कहें वह गलत हो सकती है ।

Shri Radha Raman: Besides sending a note through India's representative in the United Nations to the Security Council, has the Government of India approached directly the Pakistan Government regarding this?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think so. I find that we are not succeeding in instilling virtue by admonishing the Pakistan Government.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. There is one other Short notice question.

Shri Naushir Bharucha rose—

Mr. Speaker: Hon Members who have given the question must be the first to rise so that I can first exhaust them.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Three times I got up.

May I know why the Government is even now fighting shy of having this issue raised in the Security Council?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Nobody is fighting shy of it. One cannot send every odd issue for discussion in the Security Council whenever it arises. The Security Council has to deal with the whole world. The matter will, no doubt, come up at the right time when this question is considered.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Alleged use of Air Bases in Kashmir by Soviet Planes

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S.N.Q.
No. 21. { Shri S. V. Ramaswamy;
Shri C. R. Narasimhan;
Shri D. C. Sharma;
Shri Shree Narayan Das;
Shri Radha Raman;

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the question in the Pakistan National Assembly on August 24th instant regarding Russian air bases in Kashmir and Russian planes carrying material to Kashmir under a secret agreement with India and permitting them to use air bases in Kashmir;

To this question the Foreign Minister of Pakistan is reported to have replied that "Soviet Planes were known to have been landing in Kashmir."

(b) Is there any truth in the allegation that Soviet Planes have been landing in Kashmir or carried any material there; and

(c) Is there any secret agreement as alleged in regard to the use of air bases?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). There is no truth whatever in the allegations made. They are flights of fancy and imagination. There are no foreign air bases in Kashmir. No Russian or other foreign planes have landed there except when the Soviet leaders, Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Bulganin, and their party visited Srinagar during their visit to India in 1955. They went there on their own aircraft, Ilyushin 14. This Aircraft only went to Srinagar and did not touch any other place in Jammu and Kashmir State. No Russian plane has ever landed at Leh. There is no new aerodrome at Leh. There is only an improvised landing ground where