

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, 27th November, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Canal Waters Dues

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*261. { Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 62 on the 12th August, 1958 and state:

(a) what further progress has been made in securing settlement of the "disputed" and the arrears of "undisputed" canal water dues outstanding against the Government of Pakistan; and

(b) if the position is as before, whether Government propose to take any special steps to expedite settlement of the dues?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b) The matter is still under correspondence between the Governments of India and Pakistan.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Are the Government actively considering the question of setting off part of these outstanding dues as our share of the cost of the construction of the link canals?

Shri Hathi: We are not considering that. It is not for us to consider. We are insisting on the payment.

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Shri V. C. Shukla: Did the Government recently ask the Pakistan Government to pay the dues immediately amounting to about Rs. 107 lakhs, and if so, has any money since been received from Pakistan?

Shri Hathi: The amount due on the undisputed item is Rs. 30,81,631 and the amount due on the disputed item is Rs. 99,49,635. We are in correspondence with the Pakistan Government requesting them to pay these amounts.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know if the study of the latest replacement plan offered by Pakistan has been completed by the Government of India or not, and if the Government have formulated their stand on that plan?

Shri Hathi: Really this is outside the scope of this question, but the plan has been studied and we have prepared our statement which will be considered at the next session that is due to be held on December 2 at Washington.

Shri Morarka: Is it a fact that some files concerning this dispute and the canal water dues have been stolen recently in the theft committed in the Finance Ministry?

Shri Hathi: I think the Finance Minister did make a statement about certain files that have been lost.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : चूँकि यह अगस्त का मवाल है मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगस्त में लेकर आज तक कुछ पेमेंट पाकिस्तान के द्वारा हुआ है कि नहीं ?

श्री हाथी : कुछ पेमेंट नहीं हुआ है ।

Shri Goray: If the Pakistan Government insists on refusing to pay the dues, what steps are Government contemplating to take?

Shri Hathi: Negotiations.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the recent statement made by Gen. Ayub Khan to the effect that this is a life and death question with them, do Government expect any payment of our dues?

Shri Hathi: These things are quite separate.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if this question has been raised before the World Bank and whether Pakistan has been told that India will not adhere to its obligations of supplying water to Pakistan till 1962 if these arrears are not paid immediately?

Shri Hathi: This question of non-payment is known to the World Bank. The question of withdrawal of water is also known to the World Bank.

Defective Construction of Ships at Hindustan Shipyard

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*263. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry of the expert Committee on the defective construction of certain ships in the Hindustan Shipyard is over;

(b) whether the report has been submitted to Government; and

(c) if so, the main findings of the report.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (**Shri S. K. Patil**): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 25.]

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know what action has been taken against the persons responsible for this defect in the design or the construction of the vessels?

Shri S. K. Patil: The report has been placed on the Table of the House. Several persons have been held responsible for certain omissions, but the chief person is the firm which was our adviser, A.C.L.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know what steps have been taken even against the firm.

Shri S. K. Patil: We are trying to recover the money. Nothing else can be done at this stage. The firm has also been changed, because we have switched on to the other firm.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether in the excise launch "Andamans" this defect was found after the construction or in the intermediate stage?

Shri S. K. Patil: It was found after the construction, but the defect is only in the speed of the launch.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether any loss has been incurred on this construction?

Mr. Speaker: What is the amount of loss?

Shri S. K. Patil: Loss is not there in the sense that its dead-weight has gone down. Therefore, the loss will be in its actual running.

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that while "Haldia" was under construction, some defects were found in the design. May I know whether it was referred back to the engineering consultants of the Calcutta Port Commissioners or the ship building authorities who took the step?

Shri S. K. Patil: It has not been finally constructed. The defects were noticed at an earlier stage that if the design was pursued, the dead-weight tonnage would be less. Therefore it has not been completed. It has been referred back to the Port Commissioners in Calcutta.

Shri Tangamani: In the survey vessel "Haldia" which is the subject matter here, may I know how much