

**Farrakka Barrage**

+

Shri Chuni Lal:  
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
 Shri Nath Pai:  
 Shri Harish Chandra  
 Mathur:  
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:  
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:  
 \*686. { Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:  
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
 Shri Narayanankutty  
 Menon:  
 Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:  
 Shri Rajendra Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1700 on the 24th April, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the letter received from President Ayub Khan of Pakistan regarding construction of the Farrakka Barrage on the River Ganga in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A reply has been sent. A Minister-level meeting can be usefully held as soon as a full exchange of data has taken place and there is general agreement on this data. As the House is aware a series of meetings of Engineers of the two countries are taking place to exchange full data. Our reply has reiterated the importance of the Farrakka Barrage Project for India which is the only means we have for saving our vital port of Calcutta.

**Shri Chuni Lal:** May I know the objections raised by the Pakistan Government?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Objection to what?

**Shri Chuni Lal:** Objections in this regard, namely the construction of the Farrakka Barrage.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** They say that this will affect their water supplies higher up, that is, in East Pakistan, and nothing should be done which affects it. That is the main argument.

**Shri Nath Pai:** In view of the urgency of completing this barrage with expedition and speed, as the Prime Minister said the other day, may I know whether, whereas these negotiations and correspondence will be kept alive, the actual implementation and execution of the barrage will not be allowed to be interfered with in any way, and the time-schedule will be adhered to?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, we are proceeding with this work. We have not allowed it to be stopped or suspended and we do not intend to stop it in any way.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Do we stand by the earlier position that we took namely that we are entitled to take unilateral action in this matter, and if so, may I know what our programme of work for this year is?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot straight off say about the programme of work, but it is proceeding. It began, of course, with the acquisition of land, the building of roads, the building of, I think, some railway lines round about; and that kind of basic work was done. It is proceeding. We are doing it, as naturally we should, keeping in view the essential needs of the Pakistan people, because we do not wish to deprive them of anything. It is only what we have to do for the preservation of the Port of Calcutta that we must do.

But the point is not merely the Farrakka Barrage. What President Ayub Khan suggested was a larger survey in East Bengal or East Pakistan and West Bengal, because they also have got some projects in view, and so have the West Bengal Government, apart from the Farrakka Barrage.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** During the entire period we had taken up in the finding out of the data with regard to the Farrakka Barrage, Pakistan had not raised the question of having a joint consultation on these matters. At what stage have they entered into the field? Now, our data are almost complete, and we can start with the Farrakka Barrage. At what stage has Pakistan entered into the field and asked for joint consultations?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Pakistan has been protesting in regard to the Farrakka Barrage for several years, and we have told them that as soon as our enquiries are complete, we shall inform them about it; we did, later on; I cannot give the exact date when these consultations started, but some dates are given in the answer already given in regard to the meetings of the engineers; these have been taking place for a little more than a year. Three meetings have taken place, and the fourth is due. This is for the whole scheme, not merely for the Farrakka Barrage but for the whole area there.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Since it is quite clear that Pakistan questions our very right to undertake a scheme like the Farrakka Barrage, and we are also equally or more than sure of our rights, may I know what utility we hope to gain out of Ministerial level conference? Do we expect to convince them of our right?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Surely, it is always desirable, where interests conflict, like river interests or water interests, to discuss them and try to find a way which is satisfactory to both. Now, if this is done at the officers' level, the officers, naturally, are tied down to certain, shall I say, fixed policies as given down in the brief; there is no room to vary them, while Ministers can find out these ways which are advantageous to both. But before all this is done, the facts must be known. These are exceedingly complicated things. It is not a simple affair. When you go to any kind of

a scheme of the river waters or canal waters, it is frightfully complicated. For instance, in the case of the western canal waters, we have got huge volumes of statistics....

**Shri Ranga:** Can Ministers become greater experts?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** ...It takes about a month to go through them and to read them. There is also the legal aspect of it as to the rights of parties, which one can argue, but sticking to legal viewpoints completely without facts does not help much. Therefore, we want all the facts there, and then we can address ourselves to certain major questions; and at that time, Ministers can meet and consider them and either agree or not agree or partially agree.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Is it true that the Farrakka Barrage plan is largely going to regulate the surplus monsoon water, and the minimum flow of the Ganga is not going to be affected by that, and if so, how can any claim of Pakistan be tenable?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It is our view that there should be no real injury caused to Pakistan by this scheme. But I cannot answer the hon. Member's question how it can be affected. It depends on how it is done. Unless the scheme is understood, it is not possible to say. Anyhow, it is Pakistan's fear and apprehension that they will be affected.

**Shri Ranga:** If it is such a complicated matter involving so many volumes of documents and dealing with engineering and legal problems and only experts can possibly understand them, do I understand the Prime Minister to say that Ministers who would be meeting to discuss this matter over a few hours or a few days would be better qualified to deal with this matter? Or is it because Ministers are entitled to consider possibilities of give and take and in that way make concessions to the other side which may be detrimental to our interests?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I gave the example of the vast quantity of literature concerning the canal waters

scheme on the western side, which ultimately led to the Canal Waters Treaty. For the eastern side, we have not got that mountain of literature. But the thing is complicated and engineers have to report their technical findings and recommendations. Their technical findings have to be accepted. But then what follows from them is always a Minister's business to decide. The Minister, who only deals with his counterpart on the other side, has to keep in view the interests of the country. Naturally, he cannot give them up, but he has also to keep in view how best to arrive at a settlement and not keep these matters pending.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether the Government of Pakistan has explicitly agreed to this position that pending the proposed ministerial conference or the meeting of the experts, India has got the right to proceed with the construction work of this Barrage, particularly in view of the deteriorating condition of Calcutta port?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, I do not think they have expressly agreed to that. In fact, they have expressed their wish that we should not do this till that matter is settled.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** In view of the urgency of this matter, may I know whether Government have decided to stick to the time schedule in spite of the talks already carried on?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have answered it three times.

**Shri Nath Pai:** The Prime Minister has stated, understandably enough, that Ministers will have elbow-room in negotiations. I think that applies to the Indian team of Ministers. Is there the same distinction in Pakistan between officials and Ministers, and whether they also have this latitude in negotiations?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** There is a great deal of difference. On the Pakistan side, it made all the difference in the world. After numerous

meetings with their officials, when one of their Ministers, who is a General, came, we decided things—on our side we had Sardar Swaran Singh as our representative—that had taken sometimes weeks of discussion without any agreement. They decided the thing when they sat face to face.

#### Raid by Pakistanis on Indian Border

+

\*687. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:**  
**Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri Radha Raman:**  
**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:**  
**Shri Assar:**  
**Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:**  
**Shri Muhammed Elias:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian border was raided near Bikaner on the night intervening 29th-30th April, 1961 by Pakistanis who took away three girls and decamped with jewellery worth Rs. 50,000 and two camels from a village 12 miles off the border; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** (a) Yes, Sir. Six Pakistani dacoits trespassed into Indian territory and looted property valued at about Rs. 43,450, and two camels. They also kidnapped three Indian women. The women were, however, later released and they returned to India on 2nd May, 1961.

(b) The question of restoration of the looted property and two camels is being pursued by the Rajasthan police with their counter-parts in West Pakistan.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know how far are the check-posts from the place where this dacoity took place and whether there was any police station nearby where this could be reported?