

take to dispose of these claims, and whether these demands will be considered at the new higher claims rate or at the old claims rate?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, the Claims Commissioner takes his own time. He is not under the control of the Railway Ministry. He has got to verify each claim.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What about the second part of the question?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: About the second part, Sir, they will be paid in accordance with the existing rules.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister stated that the Government Inspector of Railways has completed his enquiry. Only two days ago I had been to the Library and I asked for a copy of the report. I was told that the report was not available. In view of the discussion that is going to come up before the House, may I know whether that report will be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Government Inspector of Railways is an officer of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and it is for that Ministry to say whether it will do so or not.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: You have got the report now.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether the findings of the Railway Inspector will be subject to scrutiny by the police? The hon. Minister said that the police are still continuing their investigation. May I know whether the final report will be based on the findings of the police or the findings of the Railway Inspector?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): No, no; police investigation means investigation about those persons unknown who are responsible for the removal of fish plates, bolts, etc.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Could I know if anybody has been apprehended?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not yet.

Upper Sileru Project

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 *255. { **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:**
Shri Surendranath
Dwivedy:
Shri B. C. Mullick:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 618 on the 17th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the Chief Engineers of both the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh have discussed and reported on the height of the weir relating to the Hydro-electric Project across Sileru at Guntavada;

(b) whether the Orissa Government have agreed to the proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). No; Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether there was any discussion by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Irrigation and Power with the two Chief Ministers with regard to this project and also the height of the weir; if so, what was the decision reached?

Shri Hathi: There was a decision last month with regard to this project when both the Chief Ministers agreed that the matter might be referred to Shri Trivedi, Member of the Planning Commission, for final decision as to what should be the site. But ultimately it was thought proper that a team consisting of the officers of the Irrigation and Power Ministry and the Planning Commission should examine the estimates, the sites etc., and then we should take a final decision.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know when this team of engineers is expected to visit the States and to finalise its decision?

Shri Hathi: This team of officers

will perhaps visit the States next month.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I read in the papers that even the selection of the site has been left to a member of the Planning Commission, Shri Trivedi. May I know whether it is with regard to the height of the weir or with regard to the site or both?

Shri Hathi: As I said, both the Chief Ministers suggested that Shri Trivedi himself should decide with regard to the site etc., but it was thought that it would be proper if some officers of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and the Planning Commission should examine the question of height and whichever is economically a better site should be selected out of the two sites.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Is it also understood that the construction of the weir will not start until the site of the dam is selected and finally settled, or is it that the construction of the weir will be started independently of the selection of the site?

Shri Hathi: The construction of the weir could start independently. There would be no difficulty in that. But if a site in Andhra Pradesh is selected for the dam instead of in Orissa, well, it may be that the height of the weir might have to be adjusted accordingly. But the construction of the weir would be there in any case.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: A year ago the Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission had suggested to the Orissa Government that the project may be taken up and negotiations also could go on simultaneously with the Andhra Pradesh Government. But that was not agreed to by the Chief Minister of Orissa. Now, again, if the officials of the Ministry and the Planning Commission go and suggest it, will it be acceptable to the Chief Minister?

Shri Hathi: I have not followed the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be hypothetical, whether it would be acceptable or not.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How can he say whether it would be acceptable? That would depend upon the circumstances at that moment.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Chief Minister of Orissa rejected the suggestion made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It would be difficult for the Minister here to anticipate what the reaction of the Chief Minister at that time would be.

Ghaggar Floods in Rajasthan

*256. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what damage has been caused by Ghaggar floods in Rajasthan;

(b) whether this was an avoidable calamity; and

(c) what is Rajasthan Government's view-point in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):

(a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The damages caused by the Ghaggar floods during 1960-61 as reported by the State Government are as follows:—

	Rs. in lakhs.
(1) Landed property, houses and huts	12.00
(2) Restoration of breaches on Railway tracks (This does not include losses to the Railway Revenue due to suspension of traffic for over a month)	3.00
(3) Destruction of Kharif crops	15.00
(4) Damages to roads50
(5) Damage to crops & houses during the winter floods	91.00
	121.50