

[English]

Water Sharing Treaty with Bangladesh

*125. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the signing of water-sharing treaty between India and Bangladesh Government have made any appraisal about its workability and flows;

(b) whether the treaty has protected the country's interest;

(c) whether any further negotiations are contemplated by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether the Government have received any protests from different States particularly Bihar and West Bengal, regarding the consequences of the above stated treaty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof separately in respect of parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) above and the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) Appraisal of workability and flows will be possible after joint observations are carried out for 2 years. The Treaty signed in December, 1996 provides for setting up a Joint Committee to monitor the discharge released to Bangladesh and into the Feeder Canal during the lean season starting from 1st January to 31st May every year. This Joint Committee has been set up and Joint Teams are carrying out joint discharge measurements.

The Treaty also provides a clause under Article X for a review after every five years. It would be open to either party to seek first review after two years to assess the impact and working of the sharing arrangement as contained in the Treaty.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Treaty would benefit both the countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government of West Bengal has not protested. However, Government of Bihar has conveyed apprehensions to Government of India on the Treaty coupled with increased upstream utilisation which may lead to shortage of water in Bihar.

(e) The implementation of the Treaty would be studied after joint observations are completed for two years which may give an indication of necessity of a review.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have

asked whether any representation has been received from the state or the state, because Bihar state has conveyed it's some apprehensions to the Union Government. But there is no reply about the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Hon'ble Minister thereon. Bihar State Government has submitted a representation in this regard to the Union Government.

It has been clearly mentioned therein that in the present treaty, 1500 Cu. water will be available in Farakka, whereas the survey of Ganga Terminal was carried out by the second irrigation Commission of Bihar and it was of the view that available water at terminal will not be good enough to provide 1500 Cusec water at Farakka. This agreement was signed on the basis of data collected in 1988. From 1988 to 1996 the water of Ganga basin has been maximum utilised in our states. This fact has not been taken into account and it has been mentioned in the Treaty that it will be done in five or two years. We doubt that water will not be available to us as per the agreement, because in the part (2) of Article-2 it has been mentioned that:-

[English]

"Annexure-II as referred to in sub-para I above is based on 40 years from 1949 to 1988 ten-day period average availability of water....."

MR. SPEAKER : No, Professor. That is not the way. What is your question? If you have any question, you can ask. Otherwise, I am going to the next person.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : It has been further said: ".....to protect flows of water at Farakka as in the 40 years' average availability as mentioned above.

[Translation]

It has been imposed on us that the amount of water mentioned in the Treaty from Ganga to Farakka, we will have to release that much water. That is why, we fear that in the drought session, we will have shortage of water. For that, the Union Government should provide us fund for the development of our river valley projects. For that a High dam should be constructed on the Kosi river at Brah area. Whether Government will consider this proposal and will provide the adequate funds? If not, why there is binding on us of this Treaty?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was also raised on last Monday. There is no ban from the Government side for the states in the upstream basin. The water flowing to Bangladesh from the Farakka and Calcutta port has only been divided.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : But that much water will not be available in Farakka..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him finish the answer.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : The irrigation Commission of Bihar had submitted a report in 1994 that the flow of

Ganga had been reduced. Central Water Commission does not verify this fact. A week ago, this matter was discussed with the officials of Bihar and Central Water Commission is seriously considering these observations.

As far as, the rivers flowing from Nepal are considered, this matter was discussed with Government of Nepal earlier also and if an agreement is reached, Bihar will be get the lion share therein and sufficient water will be available in the Farakka barrage....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : My second question is whatever figure be arrived at in this Treaty, it will be from the share of Bihar. Bihar had already lodged its protest and conveyed apprehensions about it. But even then our views were not invited at the time of preparation of draft Treaty. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that at the time of signing such International Treaty, whether concerned States will be consulted? If not, and if Government will overlook our interest, we will be forced to protect our right interest. Hon'ble Minister is a follower of Late Shri Lohiaji and we will follow Lohia's ideology. I want to submit that national interest is supreme, but our States interest should also be linked therewith. We will not hesitate to start agitation and will force the Government to accept our demand. Of course, we are not like 'Almati', but we will not tolerate like this.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Prof. Mehta, you are a Professor and you should be able to frame your question. I am not going to allow the Minister to answer this.

[*Translation*]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Speaker, he is telling an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a time to raise important issue, it is time to ask question.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, as far as the question of giving water to Bangladesh is concerned, mainly the Calcutta port is affected which comes under West Bengal. The Union Government has indeed consulted it and taken its opinion thereon, so that the State should not suffer. I have already mentioned that the upstream water of Farakka has not been agreed to and the treaty has been signed only for the downstream water of Farakka....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said that he will solve the problem as and when it will arise.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr Speaker, sir, the Government has forced us and the Minister has said that the flow of water...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Prof. Mehta. I think, it is enough now. I cannot allow any further. There is another name against this question. Shri Uttam Singh Pawar. He is absent.

Yes, Shri Yadav, please be short and put a pointed question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Mr. Speaker, sir, through you, I want to ask from Hon'ble Minister, that the treaty for sharing of Ganga water was signed in 1996, whereas it is based on 1988 data. It has been mentioned therein that we can use the upstream water. The Minister had also said that we can also use the water released after the Farakka dam. He has also mentioned that the issue was discussed with Nepal Government regarding the use of Kosi water. I want to know the progress made in the consultation held so far with the Nepal Government regarding use of Kosi and Bagmati rivers.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : The consultation was held about a month ago with the Nepal Government(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You had stated from the first step to water.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has not answered about the progress made in the consultation with the Nepal.

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, he is not replying to the question.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Sir, just to save the Calcutta port, 40,000 cusecs of water is a must in the lean months. The lean months have already commenced with January and would continue up to the month of May.

I would like to know very clearly from the hon. Minister as to whether the Calcutta airport.....

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want the airport also to be flooded!

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : ...I mean, the Calcutta port is getting 40,000 cusec water everyday or not. If not, then why are you making a second proposal that the Sankosh river water should be carried to the Ganges just to have a good inflow into the river Ganges.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir the flow of water at Calcutta port is 52 thousand cusec(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is not true. I can show the Government document,

[*Translation*]

It is an official document. Here 40 thousand cusec has been mentioned and he is telling 52 thousand cusec.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, about 52 thousand cusec water flows at Calcutta port(*Interruptions*)

Emergency will be declared, when the water level will be less than 50 thousand cusec. It has been mentioned in the document. At that time both the Governments will decide about the next course of action.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put up a question regarding the Treaty signed with our neighbouring countries regarding water distribution. The area of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is affected by the river Ganga. The total population of these three States is 22 crores, whereas the population of West Bengal is only 6 crores, which is affected by the water of Ganga. Only one crore population will be benefitted by this treaty. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that whether it is justified to divide equally the water of Ganga for 15-15 days for each country; whereas our 22 crore population will be affected as compared to 3 crore people of Bangladesh. Whether this distribution will be justified?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : This agreement has been signed. In our view there was a drought like situation in Bangladesh in the absence of water in Bangladesh....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Whether our land was not affected by the drought. Why should we give our water to other country when our people directly need it (*Interruptions*)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that the interest of our people has not been protected....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My question has not been answered. I have asked a specific question.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

My question was on the proportion of water distribution to population. My question was specifically relating to the population which was affected in Bihar....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I think we have been discussing it again and again.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Minister, sir, will you think for the betterment of India or Bangladesh?...(*Interruptions*)

Are you a Minister of India or Bangladesh..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : As discussed by Shri Mehta, our 22 crore population of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is affected by this agreement. Their interests have also been protected....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RITA VERMA : How can we be assured that our interests have been protected?..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr Mehta is asking again and again about sub-section (2) of article 2.... (*Interruptions*) We will ensure the availability of water..... (*Interruptions*) Many alternatives are being explored, like

co-operation from Bhutan; to store maximum water in the reservoirs of Kosi, Brahmaputra rivers and in the upper agrarian States in the monsoon session and how this stored water to be released in lean season, we are considering this point also... (*Interruptions*) upper states do not come into picture in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly help me to have the answer. I have asked a specific question..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, how much water is there in lean months in Farakka?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, how much water is available in Farakka during lean season?

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : From the reports of last many years, it is assumed that at last 52 thousand cusec water remain in Farakka during lean months..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has answered the question. He has given figures. Whether you agree with him or not, it is for you to decide.

Sea Erosion in the Country

*127. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to prevent sea erosion in the country which is causing severe damages in the sea coasts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Investigation, design, construction and maintenance of coastal erosion protection works is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Government of India constituted Beach Erosion Board in the year 1966. The same has been renamed as Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) in April 1995. The objective of the Committee is to develop the most effective and economical solution to the coastal problems. The Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (River Management), Central Water Commission includes representative of all maritime States.

It has been proposed to formulate and implement a National Coastal Protection Project (NCPPI) during 9th Plan,